



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat 'Middle Man' in Egypt-Iraq Reconciliation

JN1802080593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18-19 Feb 93 pp 1,4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman today in preparation of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan. Mr. 'Arafat, who is expected to confer with senior Jordanian officials on both Jordanian and Palestinian positions vis-a-vis the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, will then go on to visit Iraq for the second time this month.

Mr. 'Arafat will visit Baghdad and confer with the Iraqi leadership in an attempt to bring Iraq into the Arab fold, an Arab diplomat said. The thrust of the effort is to reconcile Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the diplomat said.

"It may be strange but Egypt will be the Arab country to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold and eventually into the international arena," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

Mr. 'Arafat is the "middle man" in the reconciliation effort, according to diplomats and Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis.

"In addition to securing Palestinian-Iraqi relations, Chairman 'Arafat is also carrying messages from the Egyptian leadership to the Iraqi leadership," confirmed a Tunis-based PLO official.

Egypt, with implicit U.S. support, is trying to pave the way for Iraq's reintegration into the region, the diplomat said. The main reason for the reconciliation bid at this time are multi-fold.

The United States wants Iraq back in the game for three main reasons," explained the diplomat. "One is to offset the growing power of Iran; second, to put Iraqi oil back into the market. And, the third is because full peace between Israel and the Arabs requires Iraq's consent."

Iran's growing military and economic power has been publicly cited by senior Iraqi officials as a reason why they believe other Arab countries and the West should reconsider and reassess their relations with Iraq.

The Palestinian officials say that once sanctions on Iraq are lifted oil prices will drop and that this is in the interest of the West.

"The West will gain tremendously from a reconciliation with Iraq," said the Palestinian official.

"For one the Iraqis have already said—unofficially of course—that they are willing to give most of their contracts to U.S. firms and companies and buy American-made products once the sanctions are lifted," the official said.

Senior Iraqi ministry of trade officials recently told the Jordan Times that with a population of 18 million people and some of the largest underground oil reserves in the world Iraq represents a big market for U.S. industries.

While there have been no public statements by the U.S. State Department to indicate that U.S. is willing to talk to the Iraqis soon, President Saddam said last week he hoped for better relations with the Clinton administration. According to diplomats in Amman, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdun is launching a reconciliation effort with the U.S. from New York.

"Nizar Hamdun is personally behind much of what is going on and what will go on in the next six months," said a Palestinian diplomat from Tunis. "There will be many behind-the-scenes talks and negotiations. In six months the agreement will come. Either it will be a total lifting of sanctions or a gradual one, but the process is already in motion."

Iraq will agree to join in the multilateral talks among the Arab states and Israel, said the Palestinian diplomat. "Saddam Husayn publicly signalled this when he sanctioned continued Palestinian participation in the talks during his talks with 'Arafat last week," he said.

Prior to the talks between the Palestinian leader and the Iraqi president 10 days ago, Iraq had criticised and opposed the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The change in position signalled Iraq's willingness to join the rest of the Arab World and talk peace with the Israelis, Arab diplomats say.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Envoy Views Deportees, Christopher Tour

NC1802075593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0610 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian representative at the United Nations, in New York, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Qudwah] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] What is the PLO doing to contain the volatile situation in the occupied territories?

[Al-Qudwah] The situation in the occupied territories is indeed unbearable due to Israel's mounting oppression against our people. Palestine's permanent mission at the United Nations sent official letters to the UN secretary general and to the Security Council president on the developments in the occupied territories. We explained the Israeli measures and asked the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and make urgent moves to end this tragedy and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. We once again raised the issue of the Palestinian deportees following Friday's [12 February]

confusion. We would like to stress through your radio that the Security Council did not take any official measure on Friday, and that its official position remains that Resolution 799 must be fully and immediately implemented.

[Al-Jundi] So, there is no retreat from Resolution 799 or from the need for Israel to observe it?

[Al-Qudwah] Yes, this is true despite all the damage caused by some Western media. As I said, there is no document on any action taken by the Security Council on Friday. As for us, we stress Resolution 799 and the need to implement it. The Arab group at the United Nations also met yesterday to discuss the subject. It decided that the chairman of the group should send letters to the Security Council president and the UN secretary general demanding that the Security Council discuss the secretary general's report fully and officially and take the necessary measures to ensure that the Security Council resolutions are respected—in this specific case, Resolution 799.

[Al-Jundi] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make his first Middle East tour. Do you think the tour will succeed in resuming the peace negotiations?

[Al-Qudwah] Actually, we hoped the visit would be made under better circumstances. From the beginning, therefore, we called for solving the deportees problem within the Security Council so as to conclude this matter before Christopher's visit—of course, through the return of all the deportees. Regrettably, however, this has not happened to date, and therefore the deportees issue inevitably will cast a heavy shadow over Secretary Christopher's visit. Although we are ready to deal positively with the visit and to try to make it successful, we can only say that the deportees issue must head the topics for discussion. It is impossible to ignore this subject. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that the Palestinians remain determined not to resume the peace negotiations until the Palestinian deportees are returned?

[Al-Qudwah] We will not be in a position to resume the negotiations. This should not be explained as a Palestinian boycott of the talks. It should be explained as Israeli sabotage of the peace process through Israel's violation of international law and its deportation of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Christopher Urged To Recognize Palestinian Rights

LD1702224193 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, on the occasion of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit we would like to travel back about a year and a half down memory lane. While preparations were under way to welcome Secretary of State James Baker, we found former Zionist Minister of War Moshe Arens casting doubt on Baker's visits and recalling that his predecessor George Shultz used to say on arrival in Israel after a tour of Arab countries that he felt as though he had

arrived home. The former Zionist minister of war added that he did not know whether Baker felt the same. On our part, we are now asking whether Warren Christopher is feeling the same emotion which struck George Shultz and, later, Baker.

Even if we were certain about the existence of a similar feeling in Christopher, we would not allow ourselves to interfere in directing or controlling Christopher's feelings and emotional affairs. However, we want Christopher to be aware that we too have feelings and dignity, and above all we are the side whose rights have been usurped. Let Christopher be aware during his travels between capital cities that the question of jumping over fundamental issues, foremost of which is the issue of the deportees and the rights of Palestinians in occupied Palestine, has become an exposed game. If Christopher is not concerned or does not care that that game is contrary to our legitimate rights, let him at least remember that it is contrary to the principles of international legitimacy and the new world order which the administrations of his country have been busy creating for two years.

While we are reaffirming our full commitment to the peace process in accordance with the principles on which it was based, headed by Resolutions 242 and 338, and are still stressing our strong eagerness to continue that process with awareness that it requires patience, we are defying anyone who would dare to accuse us of destroying the peace process by suspending the negotiations until all the deportees have returned while the mass deportations, crimes, and horrific violations of human rights committed by the occupation authorities against our people in occupied Palestine are being overlooked. While our region will receive Warren Christopher tomorrow, we reaffirm our insistence on our firm and lawful stance and urge our brother Arabs to demonstrate practical solidarity with our stance.

Let Christopher recognize our rights or return empty-handed. In any case, we will not feel remorse. Let the world realize that our solidarity and unity are better for us than achieving limited territorial gains.

Prospects for Success of Christopher Tour Viewed

TA1702192993 *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
17 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour—Between Preliminaries and Results"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins today his first tour of the Middle East region. This tour comes in the wake of many preparatory steps, whereby it seems as if the U.S. secretary is coming to reap the fruits of the intensive diplomatic efforts that he has been exerting for about one month since he assumed his post.

There have been U.S.-Israeli contacts, which resulted in the deal of joint circumvention of Resolution 799 and which were crowned by the Security Council statement that blessed this deal and closed the Council's doors to any deliberations over the deportee issue.

There have also been U.S.-Arab contacts, especially with the Arab "cordon" states and Egypt. The substance of those contacts have been revealed in statements by leaders and senior officials of these states. All the statements stress the importance of resuming the peace talks and regard the deportee issue as secondary or marginal just because the United States considers the issue to be so.

And finally, the United States did not ignore the Palestinian side, which was given its full share of consultation and pressure in a bid to maintain the Palestinians inside, not outside, the U.S. equation and pave the way for the success of Christopher's tour from all aspects.

Thus, the U.S. secretary of state will be arriving in the region preceded by his efforts, but the chance of succeeding in his mission remains subject to debate and is not definite or governed by the U.S. law of fate and destiny.

True, Arab bending to the U.S. will has begun to manifest itself in the form of remarks and statements downplaying the deportee issue in favor of resuming the peace talks, but the reactions and repercussions generated by the deportee crisis on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels are not so simple.

On the other hand, insistence on resuming the peace talks without taking into consideration the Palestinian reality, under occupation in all its pain and calamity, with deportation being just one of its phenomena, will make the talks a mere ceremonial formality and a dialogue of the deaf—that is if Christopher's visit succeeds in renewing the talks in the first place.

Arabs Seen Bowing to U.S. Pressure on Deportees
TA1702164493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
16 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Negative Arab Positions on the Deportee Issue"]

[Text] So far the Arab stance on the deportee issue has been coordinated and based on what the Arab foreign ministers decided at their meeting which discussed this issue. One of the most important decisions of that meeting was the demand from the international community to strive toward implementing Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of all deportees.

As for the declared Palestinian stance, it has linked the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks to the deportees' repatriation. This Palestinian stance constituted the firm ground from which the Arab and international move was launched with the aim of implementing the above-mentioned Security Council resolution. The drafting of this resolution and the international consensus over it were rare examples of objectivity and justice in the international organization.

Obviously, however, there are systematic efforts to breach the Arab position's cohesion. This has become clear from a number of statements attributed to leaders and senior officials in the so-called "cordon" states. Those leaders stress in these statements that the peace talks might be

resumed without a solution to the deportee issue, or that the peace talks are the main thing and the deportee issue is marginal. Such remarks and comments reflect the response of those leaders and officials to U.S. pressure. This pressure seeks the resumption of the peace talks at any price, even if that is burying the Security Council's credibility and prestige or the collapse of the Arab position's unity over the deportee issue.

Perhaps to the non-Palestinian Arab parties the deportee issue does not generate the same sensitivity and reaction that it does on the Palestinian level. For this reason, statements are made announcing the disengagement of this or that party from the deportee crisis. However, the Palestinian people view this issue as an internal issue with tremendous repercussions. It is important, therefore, to find a quick solution to this problem on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Continued cohesion and steadfastness of the Palestinian and Arab stances are the basis for any change in U.S. and Israeli policies toward the full and immediate repatriation of the deportees. This cohesion led to the U.S.-Israeli deal. Should cohesion and steadfastness continue, it will either lead to implementation of Resolution 799, or at least, to the disclosure of U.S. policy's double standard before the entire world.

Unified Arab Stance Urged on Deportees, Talks
TA1702160593 Jerusalem AL-USBU' AL-JADID in Arabic
14 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Mountain Brought Forth a Mouse"]

[Text] The Palestinian people followed with bated breath the discussions held at the Security Council and behind the scenes at the United Nations on implementing Security Council Resolution 799 regarding the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees. The Palestinians harbored mixed feelings of hope and anticipation that the Security Council would use the same standard that it had used against Iraq. Many of us wished that the United Nations would actually express the conscience and will of the international community and play its natural role in imposing its will on countries that defy the international community and its resolutions.

But the statement issued at the end of the Security Council discussions over the deportee issue, Israel's defiance of the Security Council resolution, and the deal that it reached with the United States at the expense of the deportees was disappointing and the saying "the mountain brought forth a mouse" applies. Consequently, it has been proven for the thousandth time that the new world order serves the interests of the United States and its pampered child, Israel. Hence, the Security Council, under U.S. pressure, was used to find a way out for Israel. This statement will encourage Israel, as long as it is supported by Washington, to continue with its repressive policy, which contravenes human rights principles and the fourth Geneva convention. Moreover, this will also lead to further Israeli violations of human rights and international charters, such as

firing rockets at homes and demolishing them under the pretext of searching for wanted men.

Perhaps U.S. pressure may succeed in finding a way out for Israel and Rabin personally, but the remaining question is: Will U.S. pressure succeed in finding a way out of the impasse into which Rabin has pushed the entire peace process?

This question now confronts the Arab states. It is essential to adopt a unified Arab stance regarding the resumption of the peace process, because such a stance in this crisis might convince the new U.S. Administration not to go along with all of Israel's deeds that contravene international law.

It is obvious that public opinion inside and outside the occupied territories does not favor a return to the negotiating table as long as the deportees suffer in south Lebanon. Therefore, if the Arab states decide to go to the negotiations, they will have to go alone because the Palestinian negotiators cannot override the will of the Palestinian masses.

In conclusion, we must point out that the Security Council statement and the U.S. position will raise a great deal of skepticism about Israel's commitment to international legitimacy's resolutions, particularly 242 and 338, which constitute the basis of the peace process and, ultimately, skepticism about the benefit of the continuation of the peace process and its success.

PLO's al-Najjab on Deportees, Political Activity

JN1602122793 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
16 Feb 93 p 10

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab by unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MUSTAQBAL] The Palestinian leadership says it will stay away from the Washington peace talks unless the deportee issue is resolved along the lines of UN Security Council Resolution 799. There is a growing perception, however, that even if the issue is not sorted out in the manner described, the PLO will in the end have to participate in the negotiations under the pressure of objective parameters. What do you think?

[Al-Najjab] The PLO is unambiguously committed to nonparticipation in the next rounds of the bilateral and the multilateral talks unless the deportee affair is worked out on the basis of Resolution 799. Intense pressure is being exerted on us, especially by the U.S. Administration, but we will not give in. Whatever contrary remarks are made by certain Palestinian figures, these people speak only for themselves and are part of the pressure being applied on the Palestinian leadership and to show that the Palestinians may, after all, change their mind. The Palestinian leadership's position took its cue from the steadfast stance of the brother deportees, who have dismissed the American-Israeli deal and are holding out for enforcement of Resolution 799. We also draw inspiration from an aversion on

the part of the Palestinians in the homeland and in exile to participation in the talks before the deportees affair is over.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] What do you think of the ideas being floated to develop the American-Israeli deal?

[Al-Najjab] We rejected the deal in principle; accepting it would mark a precedent that would hang over all UN resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli dispute, including Resolutions 242 and 338—the linchpin of the ongoing peace process.

Plus, by striking a deal with Israel, the United States has thus given itself the right to interpret Resolution 799 as it pleases, and, in the meantime, given Israel an excuse to carry on with its traditional position of making light of and flouting UN resolutions. It must be noted that the Americans do not balk at the number of the deportees. If we were to bargain over the number of the people that may be banished, we would, effectively, lend legitimacy to the Israeli practice of exiling our people from their homeland.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Does this U.S. Administration stand on the deportees issue prove to you that Washington is, as it claims, an honest mediator or a neutral sponsor of the peace process?

[Al-Najjab] By taking this stand, the U.S. Administration continues its traditional policy, which is biased toward Israel and hostile to our national rights. But what is new is that Mr. Clinton has failed his first test, which is regrettable, since it shows an unrealistic approach by the new U.S. Administration toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. A policy of double standards and arbitrary interpretation of international legitimacy as viewed by the U.S. Administration has again emerged.

However, we can bring about a change in the new U.S. policy once it is met with a nationalist stand and decisive opinion in defending our national rights and the international legitimacy. This particular matter should be worked out now prior to the new U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Some Jordanian parties have announced their relinquishment of their previous organizational and financial links with some PLO factions. Yet, there is the question of how to organize the Palestinian presence in Jordan. What is your opinion about this?

[Al-Najjab] First, I would like to point out that this issue is sensitive, complicated, realistic, and has its own history. At the outset, we should emphasize the special, distinguished historical relationship between the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. We cited this relationship when we stressed the future Palestinian-Jordanian relationship after the liberation of our occupied territories and the establishment of our independent states on the land of Palestine. We also cited this relationship upon drafting the Jordanian-Palestinian political agreement, on the basis of which the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was formed. However, each party continues to maintain its own characteristics, and every political party continues to

have its own distinct platform which it is seeking to realize in the current phase. The essence of the national Palestinian program is national independence, whereas Jordan has already accomplished this mission, so the mission of all Jordanian political parties now focuses on safeguarding this independence.

The declaration by some Jordanian political parties of their independence from the Palestinian factions operating in Jordan, their statements that they are in harmony with Jordanian law, and the fact that these parties have been legalized is a step in the right direction. This step is in line with the distinct platforms I have mentioned. This does not undermine the strength and the necessity of solidarity among all parties and political forces in Jordan with our Palestinian people in their endeavor to attain their national independence.

Our party, the Palestinian People's Party, the former Communist Party, followed this deep-seated theory when it declared its independence from the Jordanian Communist Party in 1982. Since then, we have not carried out any organizational activity in the Jordanian arena. Our activities are restricted to the political aspect and occur within PLO establishments in Jordan.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] But there are Palestinian factions, such as your party, which have a political presence in Jordan. What is the nature of this presence?

[Al-Najjab] This is an important question. I believe that since party life in Jordan was organized, the principles and limits of the Palestinian factions in Jordan should be agreed upon with the Jordanian Government. This should be done in a manner that allows these factions to enhance their links with our masses, especially those in the occupied territories, and in a manner that ensures the rule of law and noninterference in internal Jordanian affairs. What facilitates reaching the correct solution to this issue is the current political agreement between the Jordanian Government and the PLO, the disengagement decision, and the democratic atmosphere in Jordan.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] You are different from other PLO factions in the fact that you are a party. This slightly contradicts the nature of the national movement. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Najjab] I think this issue came to a head a long time ago. The history of the Palestinian national movement and all world liberation movements indicates that the commands of these movements comprise parties and national fronts that group together party representatives who agree on a common program. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Views Talks With U.S. Officials

TA1602163093 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
15 Feb 93 p 16

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate your meetings with the U.S. officials?

A: It's too early to evaluate them on the basis of results, but we have made a very clear presentation of the Palestinian position, in an candid and direct way, pertaining to the Israeli-American agreement on the expulsion. We insisted on the implementation of (Resolution) 799 and informed them that as far as we're concerned, the only party empowered to work out the implementation of 799 is the U.N. Security Council and not a separate bilateral agreement between Israel and the United States.

We also discussed the whole issue of human rights under the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories, including the killing of children, house demolitions and the treatment of prisoners.

Q: What was the American response to the issues you raised?

A: The Americans insist that the agreement with Israel in an implementation of 799, that it is consistent with 799, and they tried to present their case in that way. We said it circumvents 799.

They also said that their position on expulsion is consistent, remains the same, and they have never condoned or ever accepted expulsion. They were trying to get Israel to reverse the expulsion and not themselves to accept expulsion as a policy.

They were also willing to listen and to discuss the ways in which the peace process could be improved: the manner of Palestinian participation, issues of substance, terms of reference. There was a very expansive and serious exchange on that.

Q: Did they try to convince the Palestinians to change their position and go to the peace talks before the expulsion issue is resolved?

A: No, not at all. They tried to convince us that the Israeli-American agreement is a solution to the expulsion question. We told them that this is unacceptable to us. But they didn't urge us to go to the peace process and not to deal with the expulsion. We spent the whole meeting just discussing the expulsion and the repercussions that this has on the peace process, on American credibility, the stability of the whole region, the issue of human rights and particularly on Palestinian public opinion.

Q: Did the people from the State Department try to set a date for resuming the talks?

A: Not at all. There is no schedule; there is no date, either for the multilaterals or the bilaterals. We are urging them to ensure the implementation of 799 before they work out any type of future schedule.

Q: It was mentioned that you delivered a message to the U.S. Administration from the Palestinian leadership. What kind of message was this?

A: There was a message from President 'Arafat to implement 799 immediately. On Christopher's trip to the

region, he should see that the first task at hand is to ensure the rule of law in the region and to safeguard Palestinian human rights. Christopher's visit would be much more productive if the issue of the expellees is solved by the implementation of 799.

Q: Did the Americans give a particular date for Secretary Christopher's visit and say which issues would be discussed?

A: They said that the main American concern is to get the peace process reinvigorated and to discuss ways that can help it move forward.

Q: Do you think that his trip will achieve anything if the issue of the expellees is not resolved?

A: It is hard to project whether it will or will not achieve anything. Each trip has its own internal dynamic and agenda, but it is also subject to external developments. That's why we urged that the expulsion issue be resolved before the trip so that it will be productive.

Q: Do you expect Lebanon and Syria, and maybe even Jordan, to accept to participate, even before solving the expulsion problem?

A: I think all the Arab parties are convinced that this is a comprehensive issue. There must be a position of solidarity with the Palestinians and decisions have to be taken, in a sense collectively, or at least in a way that they are based on intensive coordination and discussion. As you know, the Arab foreign ministers will meet Christopher in order to discuss the problem issues, but most importantly the issue of the expulsion and also the peace process itself.

Q: Since the beginning of the year, the number of Palestinians shot and killed by the army, and the number of houses demolished as a result of shelling has increased. How do you see the deteriorating conditions in the human rights situation in the occupied territories?

A: That is first and foremost on the agenda. In every meeting, we discuss the escalating Israeli aggression in the occupied territories. We discussed it, and I presented specific information on what is happening on the ground, pertaining to the killing of children, the killing of innocent Palestinian civilians and the house demolitions. We presented this in no uncertain terms as not only a serious and great breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights, but also a deliberate and wilful way in which Israel is undermining the chances of peace and stability in the whole region.

Q: How did you find the new U.S. Administration? Did you find a sincere interest in solving the conflict in the region?

A: They showed serious concern on the human rights issue and about the expulsion, but at the same time they kept reiterating their commitment to the peace process and pushing it forward. You must admit that there has not been an upheaval in the State Department or the National Security Council. There is an element of continuity of the people and staff.

Q: Did you raise the issue of resuming dialogue with the PLO?

A: That has been an ongoing concern and has been raised in every meeting. The necessity and importance of a dialogue with the PLO, and the fact that if they want to look forward, this would be a very positive step and would be viewed as such by the Palestinian people.

Q: Do you expect any result regarding this issue?

A: It's difficult to predict right now, and I wouldn't want to project. My personal assessment is that if the Americans do conduct a realistic analysis of the region and the needs of the region, then I think that ultimately the dialogue will be restored.

Abu-Zayyad: Consensus in Territories Against Talks

TA1402120693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1100 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] One of the advisers to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, says the consensus in the territories remains against Palestinian participation in the peace talks. Abu-Zayyad blamed Israeli policy in the territories, more than the deportee problem, for these feelings. Reporter Mark Weiss asked Abu-Zayyad if he believes the Palestinians will go back to the peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayyad] Well, it depends on what will happen regarding the deportee issue, because until this moment we don't think that the last word was said and that what must be done has been done. In all cases, it should be very clear that we are concerned in the peace talks, that we want to continue to be involved in the peace process but we want, on the other hand, the Israeli Government to stop its campaign of creating problems and obstacles in front of the peace process. What happened in Khan Yunus recently is very strong evidence that the Israeli Government is not willing and is not serious in its efforts.

[Weiss] In your opinion, is feeling amongst residents of the territories still against Palestinian participation?

[Abu-Zayyad] Go to Khan Yunus, see the people there, listen to what they were saying. They have nothing to do with what has been happening there. There is no reason which can justify demolishing their houses and leaving them in this very bad condition. All these activities are convincing people to be against the peace process, convincing people that there is no use from the peace process.

[Weiss] So, as far as you are concerned—and the Palestinian delegation—it's not just a question of the status of the deportees?

[Abu-Zayyad] I think the question is bigger. The question is that the Israeli policy inside the occupied territories is more and more creating a consensus against the peace process. They must change their policy, they must change their behavior in the occupied territories, and they must solve the problem of the deportees, which is in my opinion a small part of the picture. [end recording]

Al-Husayni, Abu-Zayyad Demand End to Deportations

TA1702152193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
17 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Yig'al Wilfand]

[Text] Israel must unequivocally declare that there will be no more deportations—as a first step toward renewing the peace talks. This was stated by Faysal al-Husayni during a meeting with members of the Kibbutz Artzi Movement secretariat at the East Jerusalem Palestinian Studies Center two days ago.

The secretariat members sought to investigate from close range the feelings among the Palestinian delegation's leadership in order to facilitate a breakthrough in contacts with the Palestinians in the wake of the deportation. Faysal al-Husayni told the Israelis that for the Palestinians deportation is the most terrible thing. He stated that without stretching the comparison, the deportation is the Palestinians' "holocaust," adding that as leaders of the Palestinian people they are leaders of everybody, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. Al-Husayni said that the painful reaction of Israelis to the murder of Toledano was justified, and would have been justified even if Toledano was not a man of peace. Al-Husayni added that the same rule applies to the Palestinians. "Rabin made three mistakes when he implemented the deportations. He believed he would weaken Hamas, whereas in fact he only strengthened it. He believed that the deportation would be ignored due to Christmas, whereas the entire world followed this affair on television, and he hoped that Lebanon would accept the deportees, a thing that also failed to materialize."

Al-Husayni called on Rabin and the Israeli Government to declare an end to the deportations and to reach out to the Palestinians, a step which would enable them to return to the talks.

Ziyad Abu-Zayyad said he believed a way will be found to resume the talks by April, adding that if this does not happen it would amount to a catastrophe.

Abu-Zayyad said he is against violence and denounced the murder in Jerusalem earlier this week. He added, however, that he also denounces the murder of his people, those killed as a result of the occupation, including children. "These victims, on both sides, are victims of the occupation. It is time to say enough."

Abu-Zayyad said the Israelis must understand that when Palestinian leaders visit Khan Yunus and see the destruction and devastation there they cannot stop the demonstrations and the ensuing violence. He added that the Palestinians are demanding that Rabin open all channels of communications with them and that he stop backing away from implementing decisions at the last moment.

The two Palestinian leaders criticized the position of Meretz ministers on the deportation issue and unequivocally denied the allegation that they had asked the government to hurt Hamas people.

Arab Liberation Front's 'Awwad Interviewed PM1602125393 London AL-QUDS AL-ARABI in Arabic 10 Feb 93 p4

[Interview with Nasif 'Awwad, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front Central Committee, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Barqawi] First of all, could you explain to us the position of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] on the peace process which has been suspended for weeks now?

['Awwad] The ALF's position on the peace process has not changed and will not change unless there is an Arab situation that would enable the Palestinian people to achieve their rights through negotiations.

It is a foregone conclusion that the former U.S. Administration proposed its settlement plan after its direct aggression against Iraq which was beginning to constitute the real start of Arab strategic parity with Israel which is supported by the West.

In our view, the peace process started at a time believed by the United States and Israel to be the most suitable for imposing their terms on the Arab nation.

Despite that, and 15 months later, that process has still achieved nothing because no Arab can accept the proposed terms without exposing himself to condemnation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Weeks ago, some Arab newspapers published reports about differences among ALF leading members. You neither confirmed nor denied these reports.

['Awwad] There is no truth in the claims about differences within ALF ranks. We did not make any comment on what was claimed because it was not worth commenting on and was the work of people or organs who wished to see differences or split within our ranks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] How would you describe your relations with the PLO at present?

['Awwad] Everyone knows that the ALF is an offspring of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party which, in its 1969 general congress, called for the formation of a front for the liberation of Palestine. [passage omitted]

ALF fully believes in the PLO as the only framework that should embrace all factions and movements.

As known, the PLO has a national charter which has not been abandoned and which regulates the PLO. ALF, therefore, is interested in remaining within the PLO framework which should also be joined by all those who strive for liberation and who are still outside that framework. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] The most urgent issue for the Palestinians is now the issue of the deportees ...

[Awwad] The issue of the deportees and the U.S.-Israeli deals which sidestep that issue and the trickery and circumvention of UN resolutions are all flagrant examples demonstrating that the United States is not serious about finding a just solution to the Palestinian question. The Security Council's resolution on that matter is clear, but neither the Council nor the U.S. Administration has managed to implement it. Although the United States voted in favor of that resolution, it went ahead and concluded a deal with Israel, thus exposing its real intentions. Washington, which launched missile attacks on Baghdad on the pretext of nonimplementation of UN resolutions and over issues on which there are no UN resolutions, is playing an abominable game with the Palestinians deported two months ago who are still living there out in the open. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Iran's Minister Calls Meeting 'Extremely Positive'

LD1702224893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The Iranian oil minister, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who was speaking in a press conference after the conclusion of the OPEC oil ministers' meeting in Vienna last night, has described the outcome of the ministerial session as extremely positive.

He expressed hope that lowering of OPEC's production to 24.58 [figure as heard] million barrels per day will culminate in the increase in the oil price. [passage indistinct]

Algeria

Foreign Minister Receives PRC's Yang Fuchang

LD1402213893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Redha Malek, Higher State Council [HSC] member and foreign minister, today received Mr. Yang Fuchang, deputy foreign minister of the People's Republic of China. Mr Yang handed our foreign minister a message from Chinese President Yang Shangkun, addressed to HSC Chairman Mr. Ali Kafi. Mr. Yang Fuchang arrived in our country on 12 February within the framework of consultation visits between Algeria and the PRC.

Loan Agreement Signed

LD1502211493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpt] An economic cooperation protocol between Algeria and the People's Republic of China was signed this morning at the Foreign Ministry in Algiers. According to the terms of this document, Algeria will receive a loan of about \$10 million. Lazhar Meratla reports:

The agreement stipulates that China will grant Algeria a 50 million Chinese yuan loan with no preconditions. The protocol of the agreement was signed for Algeria by Abdelaziz Khellef, minister delegate to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of cooperation and maghreban Affairs, and for the PRC by Yang Fuchang, deputy foreign minister in charge of the Arab world. [passage omitted]

French Minister Signs Agreements on Loan

LD1302221093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The file on Algerian-French economic relations was reopened today with the visit of Michel Sapin, the French minister of economy and finance, to Algiers.

The file was consolidated with the signing of three agreements on commercial loans for 1993 to the value of 5 billion French francs.

[Correspondent El Hadi] The visit of the French minister of economy and finance has been crowned with an agreement which includes commercial loans estimated at 5 billion French francs for 1993. The loans are earmarked for grain, equipment, and pharmaceuticals, and a further 1 billion to be made available without any conditions. The two countries agreed to protect the development of investment between Algeria and France.

Finally, an agreement was signed to cover joint cooperation between the two countries.

What can we deduce from this visit? The cooperation loan is positive for Algeria because its period ranges from 15 to 20 years and at very low interest rates. This facilitates reduction of Algeria's debts. Concerning mutual cooperation, France awaits the publication of the new Algerian investment law.

Some observers were expecting an announcement on the rescheduling of Algeria's debts with France. Algeria, however, refuses the rescheduling of debts and in return France refuses every bilateral solution. Some specialists are asking a few months before the French legislative elections whether a middle of the road solution can be found, whereby a group of Algeria's most important creditors would be formed in order to finance the rescheduling of Algerian debts. This idea is easy in theory and now awaits practical application.

To recapitulate, Sapin arrived in Algeria today on a working visit. He was welcomed by Ahmed Binbitour, the minister delegate at the treasury.

Government Reiterates Concern Over Bosnia

LD1602214993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] In a statement made through the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Algeria has expressed anew its deep concern over the painful ordeals imposed on the Bosnian people, particularly the Muslims. In response to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, who recently got in touch with the chairman of the Higher State Council, Algeria remains convinced that any solution that rules out punishment of the aggressor is considered a very dangerous precedent for the future of international peace and security.

Algeria also stresses that the principles of the solution established by the London conference on the former Yugoslavia constitutes a framework liable to ensure peace and security in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On this basis, Algeria also hopes the American initiative will contribute to finding a just and permanent solution to the conflict in Bosnia. Algeria also believes it is necessary for the entire international community, and this is the latter's responsibility, to act with determination to put an end to the aggression faced by this republic. Algeria also supports the Bosnian Government in defending its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence.

Officials Arrest 123 'Terrorists' in Algiers Area

LD1602222393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Between January and mid-February, 123 terrorists have been arrested in Algiers and its outskirts. This is the [word indistinct] an assessment made by provincial security services. These terrorists have perpetrated or taken part in assassinations. [Word indistinct] the security services, they have also been charged with armed robberies, attacks, sabotage, illegal collections, forgery, [words indistinct], and other [word indistinct] crimes against [word indistinct] security and civil peace. Furthermore, the assessment reported the presence of a local network of terrorists who are controlled by a number of people living abroad.

Members of Armed Group Arrested in Constantine*LD1602132493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 93*

[Report by Mahfoud Djeddam from Constantine]

[Text] Eleven persons accused of violating state security were arrested yesterday in the city of Constantine. According to security sources, this network has in recent days taken part in many operations, such as planting bombs in public institutions, forming subversive groups, and distributing provocative leaflets.

According to the same source, the operations of this armed group throughout the past days were aimed at the second urban security administration in Constantine. They were also planning to assassinate numerous officials from the same administration.

The accused have this morning been referred to the competent court in Constantine which will look into determining the responsibility and trying each group member.

Student Assassinated by 'Terrorist Gang'*LD1702194693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Text] A 20-year-old student was cold-bloodedly assassinated on Tuesday night in Fougat near Ain Defla by an estimated 10-member armed terrorist gang. This was announced by the national gendarmerie command. The victim was killed by bullets fired point-blank by the assassins while he was attempting to oppose their attack against his father in order to take his hunting rifle.

Three Policemen, Soldier Killed Along Highway*LD1802030793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Three members of the National Gendarmeries and a soldier who was driving a People's National Army ambulance were killed on the afternoon of 17 February by a terrorist group on National Highway 1 between El Hamdania and Medea. [passage omitted]

A source added that a group of people were caught sabotaging telephone poles and that they would be brought to justice.

Joint units of the People's National Army and the National Gendarmeries in Bouira Province have eliminated a terrorist group comprising six armed men who were active in the municipality of Oueld Rached. [passage omitted]

Egypt**President Mubarak Holds Talks With 'Arafat***NC1702185593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1848 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received tonight Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

More on Talks*NC1702194893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—MENA's Arab affairs editor has learned that the discussions between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat this evening focused on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt, due to begin tomorrow as the first leg of a regional tour.

The talks also dealt with coordinating stands and exchanging views about the Palestinian deportees, possible future steps to return them to their country, and continuing Egyptian and Palestinian efforts on the international scene in this connection. They also reviewed current efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere.

Official Palestinian sources have said that 'Arafat will visit Cairo again in the next few days to continue his consultations with President Mubarak in light of the U.S. secretary of state's visit.

'Arafat is due to leave Cairo for Jordan tomorrow to hold similar consultations with King Husayn of Jordan. 'Arafat's current tour includes a visit to a third Arab country prior to his return to Cairo in an effort to clear up Arab differences.

Musa Denies Libyan, PLO Meetings for Christopher*NC1702213093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that Egypt has arranged meetings between Palestinian and Libyan sides and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Cairo, which begins tomorrow.

In an arrival statement upon his return from Addis Ababa this evening, Musa said that the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee on Hala'ib will meet in Khartoum during the last week of February. [passage omitted]

Musa: Peace Talks Not To Resume Before April*NC1802063693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Feb 93*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak will receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Friday. Christopher also will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said the talks will deal with the peace process and ways to remove the obstacles before it. He said the Palestinian deportees and the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina

will head discussion with the U.S. secretary, who arrives in Egypt today. Bilateral ties, especially in the economic field, will also be discussed, Musa said.

The foreign minister said that the peace talks will not be resumed before April. Until then, he added, Egypt will hold contacts with the concerned parties to reach an agreement on the return of the Palestinian deportees and make the necessary preparations for resuming the peace process.

Libyan Secretary al-Muntasir Arrives in Cairo

NC1702210893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—'Umar al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary for external liaison and international cooperation [title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt.

The Libyan official will hold talks with ranking Egyptian officials about a number of current Arab and international issues.

Cairo Radio Views Significance of Christopher Visit

NC1702152493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The U.S. Secretary of State's Regional Tour and the Hope of Peace"]

[Text] New U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin his regional tour with a visit to Egypt tomorrow evening. On his arrival at Cairo International Airport he will read a statement to reporters about his tour's aims. Before he leaves Cairo on Friday [19 February], he will hold a news conference to announce the results of his discussions with President Mubarak. What we want to stress is the significance of the choice of Cairo as the tour's first stop. Egypt is the cornerstone in promoting Middle East peace. Its role goes back to its earliest confident and sincere handling of the Palestinian issue, when it sacrificed thousands of martyrs and billions of dollars in several military engagements between 1948 and the great crossing of October 1973. Throughout that period, Egypt's military operations were not acts of aggression; they were aimed at restoring legitimate rights and establishing a just, lasting, and comprehensive regional peace.

Based on the great October victory, Egypt embarked on a peace process in 1977 with courage, capability, and endurance, finally succeeding in completely liberating its territories as a result of the war in which Egyptian commanders, officers, and troops brought about the first major upheaval—an upheaval of peace. Worldwide respect for Egypt is based on Egypt's strategy of peace, economic development, stability, and security.

During the 1948-73 period, Egypt was not even tainted with the suspicion of trying to dominate our Palestinians brothers. Egypt's handling of this Arab cause proceeded from Egypt's size, destiny, responsibilities, and its ability

to rise above trifles and lowly ambitions. Hence it is not strange that President Clinton's administration should make Egypt the first stop in its regional diplomatic action. Numerous factors place Egypt at the forefront of the peace-seeking countries in this region. Egypt is not asking the other party, Israel, to restore Egyptian rights. All Egyptian territories are now under Egyptian sovereignty. Hence, in connection with the peace process, Egypt has the great advantage of operating within its relations with the United States and Israel and its unified destiny with its Arab brothers. Peace is the common denominator among all these parties.

Egypt can play a pioneering role in attaining a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace settlement. Its long experience of negotiating with Israel can benefit its Arab brothers. Its support for its brothers in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations is based on the same principles that governed its dealings with Israel and allowed it to regain its full rights.

Since Egypt is the first and most important stage of Warren Christopher's tour, the U.S. secretary will listen to the Egyptian view, identical to the general Arab view, that is based on the premise that a peaceful settlement is based on exchanging land for peace and on halting all measures that are harmful to the peace process, particularly the Palestinian deportees crisis and acknowledging the need to return all the territories occupied in June 1967. Based on this Egyptian and Arab position, we are confident that if Israel accepts these facts, the gates of regional peace will stand open and will lead to a new war-renouncing era of economic development, progress, security, and stability.

U.S. 'Capitulation' to Israel Over Deportees Seen

NC1802102693 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
15 Feb 93 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Legitimacy of Injustice, Not Legitimacy of Justice!"]

[Text] With the rest of the world, I was surprised at the Security Council's retreat from Resolution 799, which demands that Israel return the Palestinian deportees.

True, Israel, using its special ties with and "favors" to the United States, tried hard and applied pressure on Clinton's administration, but no one expected such a miserable U.S. capitulation.

It would have been more honorable for the Security Council to issue its resolution in a different way. The United States should have been left either to use its veto or somehow take the side of justice by abstaining from the vote to save face.

Through its position, the new U.S. Administration wants to tell the world that it cannot reject any Israeli request, even if it is at the expense of international law and justice.

No one can give Israel the right to expel citizens from territory it occupied by force because the citizens struggle to liberate it. This violates a Geneva convention on protecting inhabitants under occupation and flouts the UN

Charter, which gives peoples the right to use all methods, including armed struggle, to liberate their occupied land.

We admit that the United States is alone with the crown of power, domination, and hegemony after the collapse of the Soviet Union. But no one expected this country to turn into a tyrannical force used to protect and encourage aggression by covering its terrorist and inhuman practices.

We expected the United States to put into practice its slogans on freedom and human rights—which it kept raising during its cold war with communism—by supporting the oppressed and the aggrieved to achieve their legitimate rights to life and their usurped lands.

Everybody is disappointed that the United States used its influence to place international legitimacy at the service of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, indeed against the entire Arab nation. We thought the U.S. power would be used to serve global legitimacy and force outlaws to respect international conventions. What is happening now is that Washington's policy rebelled against international legitimacy and used it to uphold the law of the jungle. Pursuing this policy, Washington cannot claim that it seeks world stability; there can be no stability when nations feel they are victims of injustice, treachery, and insecurity.

The oppressed and the victims of this unjust policy must be excused when they put it to the American policy, which practices double standards: "How bad is the legitimacy you claim to sponsor and protect!"

Opposition Paper Condemns U.S. 'Anti-Arab Complex'

NC1502162693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
13 Feb 93 p 3

[From Muhammad 'Asfur's "Opinion" column: "The Anti-Arab Complex"]

[Text] It appears that the anti-Arab complex is a basic component of the U.S. national character. (Gore) is not content with supporting the U.S. invasion of the Gulf and the strikes against the Iraqi people—which were carried out for no reason other than the Iraqi ruler's rashness and madness—and now is calling for setting up a war crime tribunal to try Saddam Husayn for using violence against the Shiites and Kurds in Iraq. (Gore) refused to comment on the possibility of kidnapping Saddam like the United States did with "Noriega." (AL-AHRAM 18 January)

I don't believe that Arab and Muslim rulers and writers exceeded the limits of politeness and propriety when they condemned the U.S. double standards (which are imposed by the United Nations) in dealing with war criminals and those who commit crimes against humanity. If these are Arabs or Muslims, then wars are launched against them and the media and international organizations erect gallows for them. But if Jews or Serbians commit the most terrible international crimes and the esteemed UN Security Council issues resolutions against them, then the West does not have any qualms about resorting to deception,

legal tricks, false promises, and statements of bravado. It does not, however, take any positive action or launch attacks using planes and missiles from destroyers!

Was it not ridiculous for Clinton's election program to be based on the Camp David agreements (between Begin and al-Sadat), which the Arabs boycotted? Clinton and his deputy (both of whom have law degrees) claim that the Palestinians have only the right to participate in determining their future but have no right to determine Israel's future! Hence they are against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state! The Democrats even denounced the Republicans' description of what remains of the state of Palestine as occupied territories and obtained a pledge from the new secretary of state that the United States will change this position so that Jerusalem remains the capital of Israel. If you read AL-AKHBAR of 4 November 1992, you saw that Clinton even accused his predecessor Bush of being biased on the side of the Arabs!

Some Arab rulers have been awed by the strength of the United States and its barbaric disciplinary campaigns. Others have agreed to be enslaved by their whims and material ambitions. All of them have relinquished the rights of their nations and peoples. But these generations, which have been corrupted by laxity, bribery, and destructive ambitions, cannot prevent the rise of worthy generations that will retrieve what has been stolen or usurped.

President Mubarak's Aide Rejects Confrontation

PM1202145593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Feb 93 p 8

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for political affairs, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is heading for the region. What do you believe he is carrying with regard to the deportees issue and the resumption of the peace negotiations?

[Al-Baz] According to my information, and in view of my meetings with the U.S. State Department and White House officials, I believe that Christopher is going to the region primarily for the sake of the peace process, in order to explore the parties' views of the ideal framework for resuming and giving an impetus to the negotiations. This is because the present administration wants to achieve a success in a foreign issue early in the presidential term. Because it is accused of focusing on domestic matters only, and U.S. officials want to eliminate this accusation. They say that they are for a basic approach to tackling domestic issues, especially the economic aspects.

But the administration has no intention of abandoning U.S. global responsibilities, including work to speed up the achievement of peace in the Middle East region, which receives special interest among Americans.

[Dirgham] The deportees issue and the subsequent suspension of the negotiations have—embarrassingly—been imposed on the new administration. How can the parties

concerned be returned to the negotiations, in the knowledge that the Arab parties, in particular the Palestinians, insist on not resuming the negotiations as long as Resolution 799 has not been implemented in full?

[Al-Baz] The deportees issue imposed itself on all parties and will impose itself on everyone in the coming days until acceptable formulas for a solution to it have been achieved. The Israeli Government misjudged Arab and international reactions. It then tried to absorb the world protest, especially in the light of the extensive media coverage of the deportees, who are experiencing very difficult conditions. They were expelled collectively, and Yitzhaq Rabin's government has embarrassed all parties, first of all itself. Because it does not want to backtrack, especially as Rabin's stakes are increasing inside Israel, and he does not want to lose the big support he is enjoying. This is in the knowledge that this is the first time an Israeli government has enjoyed the support of about 90 percent of the Israeli people.

As for the United States, it has found itself in a very embarrassing situation, because it does not want to begin its term with a confrontation with Israel. However, it finds it difficult to remain silent, because the international community as a whole is opposed to that. In all circumstances the U.S. position has been firm and decisive with regard to the deportation issue. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] The United States is opposed to discussing the deportees question at the Security Council and wants any deliberations to be delayed until Christopher returns from the region.

[Al-Baz] The United States does not want a confrontation with Israel in this connection. It can not agree to the adoption of a strong resolution condemning Israel and exposing it to sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the [UN] Charter, nor can it deny the soundness of the Arab position and its consistency with legal and moral rules. This is why we must work together with all Security Council member states. And there are serious attempts being led by the Nonaligned Movement, the aim of which is not confrontation with anyone.

We do not want confrontation. It is not about a confrontation with Israel or the United States. It is a matter of principle which must be consolidated. And we must demand that Israel implements Resolution 799 in full. In the sense that the Council should take notice of the steps announced by the Israeli Government and demand that it implements the resolution in full. I believe that it is possible to reach within the next days an agreement or a formula to endorse these basic principles and demand Israel's completion [as published] of Resolution 799. If the United States obstructs such a move, we must continue to make contacts with it. And we prefer that the U.S. Secretary of State go to the region after this issue has been resolved or at least after we have secured a suitable formula for resolving it. If it is not resolved before he goes to the region, it will be subject to discussion, as we certainly cannot disregard it while we are talking with him in any Arab capital. It will impose itself on the talks and

overshadow the peace issue, which is the main issue which we together with the United States believe is the issue on which we should focus in the stage ahead. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Despite the logic on which the Egyptian position is based, many Arab circles believe that it has contributed to diluting the Arab position with regard to the exclusion of Chapter VII and the sanctions with a view to rescuing the United States from the dilemma.

[Al-Baz] It is untrue that the Egyptian position entails backtracking from the Arab demand. We support the Arab family and the parties directly concerned in any position they take in this connection. If these parties adhere to a certain formula, regardless of its chances of success, we will certainly not oppose it. We have certainly not proposed the omission of anything, nor are we making matters easy for the United States. We want to make matters easy for the Palestinian people, because it is they who are in a predicament. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] But it is a U.S., not an Egyptian dilemma, so why is Egypt taking the responsibility for rescuing the United States?

[Al-Baz] No, we are rescuing no one, nor are we submitting any plan or proposal. We have said that we are not submitting any draft resolution. Nor is there any proposed Egyptian idea or plan. All we are saying to the brothers is that we warn that our (Arab) plan could be rejected. That is the danger we fear. We do not want an Arab plan to be rejected. Actually what we want first and before submitting it is to ensure that its chances of success outweigh the possibilities of failure.

[Dirgham] Did you ask the U.S. Administration to issue a frank position affirming that Rabin's statements are not part of the understanding in the deal, as the Israeli prime minister described it?

[Al-Baz] Of course.

[Dirgham] And what was the reply?

[Al-Baz] They are still discussing the matter, and we informed them of the danger of Rabin's statements and the need to correct the position with regard to the United States. This is because the Arab nation, including Egypt, does not want a confrontation with the United States. Nor does it want to embarrass its new administration at the beginning of its term. This is in the knowledge that our aim is for the administration to cooperate with us in order to achieve a settlement to this problem and to move toward the Arabs with regard to the numerous issues which concern us. The administration is currently studying the issue, and we hope that its position will become clear within days.

[Dirgham] And why do you not request a direct clarification from the administration instead of resorting to another Security Council resolution to repeat what is already decided?

[Al-Baz] We, and other Arab states, have had contacts with the administration. But we do not want our contacts and dialogue with it to assume the form of a campaign. Because we do not want the matter to end with a confrontation between the Arab states and the United States. We want to prompt the United States to take a strong position without driving a wedge between it and us and without making the U.S. Administration feel that the Arabs are a party to its conflict abroad.

We want to say that we had hoped that the administration would make a move to give impetus to the peace process and that we would not be pushed into marginal problems, but it was an Israeli, not an Arab decision which pushed us into this marginal problem. We should maintain this in order not to give anyone the chance to say that the Arabs are forcing the United States to enter certain conflicts at this early stage of the administration's term.

[Dirgham] You said that you would like to resolve the deportees issue before Christopher's visit to the region. What measures can be taken to close the file before the visit?

[Al-Baz] Not necessarily to close the file, because closing it completely could prove difficult, as it requires the implementation of Resolution 799 in full by returning all the deportees. What is important is not to be content with the Israeli moves made so far. Let us assume that the resolution has not been implemented fully before Christopher's visit. It does not prevent him from making the visit.

[Dirgham] What ideas are proposed to influence the Palestinian position and resume the negotiations if the deportees issue is not resolved fully?

[Al-Baz] I am not saying that we want to resume the negotiations while the deportees issue is still as it stands. We want to resume the negotiations and we want to resolve the deportees question. And we see no contradiction between the two. The question should be kept away from the negotiations completely, and the deportees must return.

[Dirgham] Not within a year, then?

[Al-Baz] We should not assume that the Israeli position is final. All positions change as a result of many influencing factors. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] There have been reports that Egypt mediated with the Clinton administration to persuade it to establish a dialogue with Libya?

[Al-Baz] We are not conducting a mediation effort, because we consider Libya a fraternal Arab state. Nor do we consider ourselves mediators when we urge non-Arab parties to open a dialogue with Arab states. Egyptian talks with the U.S. Administration fall within the framework of our desire to accentuate the importance and possibility of establishing sound relations between it and the Arab nation.

[Dirgham] So you did not discuss the Libyan issue and the Lockerbie file?

[Al-Baz] No. Nor is there a need to open that file.

[Dirgham] You talk about the Arab nation while Egypt is going through a critical phase, with regard to both the security situation as a result of the fundamentalists and extremists and the dispute with Sudan resulting from your accusation that it is trying to export the Sudanese model and from the dispute over Hala'ib.

[Al-Baz] First, the situation in Egypt is improving and not worsening as a result of what you described as fundamentalist elements. And fundamentalism poses no threat in Egypt. There is some harm because of extremist groups which resort to violence and use the Islamic religion as a cover. Fundamentalism is not the problem. The problem is terrorist actions carried out by certain groups. And with regard to Sudan, we consider the existing problems secondary. What is important is that they are temporary and do not reflect our view of the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship. Most regrettably, the Sudanese Government has begun to stir up the issue as though there were a problem, when there is none. The Egyptian-Sudanese border is straightforward and clearly defined in the 1899 agreement. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Are there any moves to resolve the Hala'ib problem while Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's regime is in power?

[Al-Baz] Of course, and the type of regime is left to the Sudanese people to decide. We decided to set up a joint committee between the two countries to settle this problem. And we still want to achieve a settlement. When asked by any state we always say that it is a minor and transient question between us and Sudan within the framework of brotherhood, and we will resolve and get rid of it within the framework of the one family.

[Dirgham] Is there any possibility of improving relations between Egypt and Iran?

[Al-Baz] In his address to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council President Husni Mubarak outlined Egypt's view of how to improve the relationship and the necessary framework. And there is a possibility of improving the relationship if Iran respects the sovereignty and freedom of all the Arab states, especially the Gulf states.

[Dirgham] There are fears of Iranian ambitions believed to be pursuing hegemony and of the idea that Iran is trying to exploit the Shiites' situation in southern Iraq and the Kurds' situation in the north. Is that the cause of the Egyptian-Iranian disagreement?

[Al-Baz] That seasonal tension in the relationship between Egypt and Iran is attributable not to a bilateral disagreement but to an approach which believes that Iran should have a vital sphere in which to exercise an influence that tends to affect policies, impose certain policies and options on governments, and impose a certain reality for Iranian nationals. In the sense that Iran is supposed to have a certain position which reflects some features of old colonialist trends. We strongly reject this and believe that the

Arab states' sovereignty should be well protected. Iran is not free to interfere in other states' internal affairs on the pretext of imposing the establishment of Islamic regimes or governments. Iran is not entitled to do that, nor will we ever allow it to continue to do that.

[Dirgham] How?

[Al-Baz] By the means on which we agree with the Arab states concerned. For example, there is a dispute between Iran and the [United Arab] Emirates [UAE] over the three islands, not just Abu Musa island. And we are in constant contact with the UAE Government in order to calm the situation.

Interior Minister on Terrorism, al-Jihad Leader

NC1402154993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT
14 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa declared today that religion-related terrorism cannot be confronted as a security issue, a problem connected with legislation and law, a phenomenon produced by an erroneous interpretation of religion, or a development influenced by education and linked to culture and information or political and popular action. He explained that instead it is a comprehensive problem that is too general to be limited to any of the above spheres, and therefore national-level efforts are required to solve it.

Speaking before the special committee which the People's Assembly formed to discuss terrorism, which is chaired by Assembly Deputy Speaker al-Sayyid Rashid, the interior minister said: We can be assured that the danger has passed, but the disease persists. Our most difficult task is to dig out the poison before it spreads again.

He added that the terrorists have learned of the security policy aimed at eliminating their presence now and in the future and this explains their recent vicious and despicable behavior as they desperately cling to their continued existence. [passage omitted]

The interior minister added: The door has not been closed to the terrorist fugitives and they must surrender to secure their safety. They can be assured we will treat them according to the law. But those who bear arms and explosives and try to use them will be faced with all the police powers that the law permits, including killing in self-defense.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1327 GMT on 14 February reports further on the issue, saying: "Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has commented on the deliberations of the People's Assembly committee on terrorism by announcing that foreign parties are financing terrorist groups and that [al-Jihad mentor] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is residing in the United States, also is involved. On two occasions it was learned that he has been sending money to these groups from New Jersey.

["The interior minister told the committee that 'Abd-al-Rahman visited him at his office 10 days before he

departed for the United States. The minister told him he was free to make calls to religious worship inside the mosque, but would not be permitted to make such calls in the street. He also told him he was free to return to Egypt if he wished, because it is his country.

["The interior minister asserted that the two most dangerous organizations in Egypt are the Repudiation and Renunciation group and al-Jihad. He added that they have equivalent groups in some other countries under such names as Islamic Jihad, with which they coordinate."]

Further Remarks

NC1802110293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
15 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Jamal Yunus]

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has revealed that if deported from the United States by a court order, al-Jihad Organization Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman would reside in Iran or Syria. The minister described al-Jihad, led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, and the Repudiation and Renunciation Group, led by 'Abbud al-Zumur [former Egyptian Army officer who is serving a jail sentence in connection with the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat], as the two most dangerous extremist groups. He noted that al-Zumur gives instructions to his followers from inside prison through his attorney. The interior minister noted that al-Zumur disagreed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman following the latter's departure for the United States. Al-Zumur issued a leaflet in which he said that "a blind man has no jurisdiction." Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman responded by issuing a similar leaflet in which he said that "a prisoner has no jurisdiction."

Speaking before the People's Assembly Committee on Combating Terrorism, Musa stressed that the extremist movement originated in prisons and detention camps during the 1965-69 totalitarian era. He admitted that the measures taken to combat terrorism are inadequate and not reassuring. He also admitted that there is no precise information on those who advocate extremist beliefs. He stressed that the extremist groups have disseminated their ideas primarily among students at the teachers colleges without the knowledge of state agencies. This led to the graduation of teachers advocating extremist beliefs, who passed on their ideas to their students, he added. The minister added that the security agencies informed the Education Ministry of the names of these teachers. The ministry expelled them, but they obtained court orders permitting them to resume teaching.

The minister warned the extremists against using Molotov cocktails against policemen and threatened to "wipe them out along with their relatives." He held their folk responsible for permitting extremism and terrorism to spread among them and declared that extremists carrying arms would be killed.

Interviewed on Eliminating Terrorism

NC1702172293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 17 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that religious extremism that uses force and terrorism to compel people to follow a particular philosophy or political thinking is unacceptable. He noted that this type of terrorism is not new to Islam and its roots go back to the time of al-Khawarij [dissidents who broke away from the army of Caliph 'Ali in 657 and then fought against him] after the death of Prophet Muhammad and to the appearance of false prophets.

In an interview published today by the Algerian paper EL-WATAN, the Egyptian interior minister stressed that all those who are seeking to propagate this kind of fundamentalist thought are working against Egypt's interests. He said that the Iranians, who are boasting of the gains of the Khomeyni revolution, are only harming Islam, which does not condone extremism. He added that the Iranians are fooling themselves if they believe that they can export what they have done in their country to the Arab countries.

The interior minister said that Egyptians are suspicious of and reject the extremists' speeches and ideas and that the Egyptian people support the security organs and are helping them eliminate these terrorist groups now that their strategies have been exposed. He asserted that Egypt's authorities have not made any concessions to the fundamentalists and have only applied the law against those carrying out terrorist actions.

On the terrorists' attacks on tourists, the Egyptian interior minister said that this proves their lack of reasoning. He said: They have no logical thinking and must be against their country's interests when they seek to distort the image of tourism in Egypt. He added that these people cannot be patriots because they are acting according to a plan that aims to harm Egypt's national economy.

Musa confirmed that there is evidence proving the involvement of foreign circles in these acts. He noted that the security organs arrested two persons on 23 and 24 January who confessed that they received military training abroad and that they could not enter Egypt through Sudan so they came through Libya. He added that the Algerians must be vigilant along their borders.

He also reported that a debate was held on enacting a law against terrorism. He said that he personally did not believe there was a need for such a law but rather a review of the current penal code to give some of its clauses a deterrent effect as happened in the field of combating drugs where a smuggler can now face execution.

On whether there is coordination between Egypt and Algeria on combating terrorism, Musa said that this was natural and that there is constant contact with the Algerian authorities.

The interior minister said the security organs have succeeded in removing the danger of extremism in Egypt by adopting an effective security strategy.

On whether the economic difficulties are one of the main causes for the appearance of terrorism, the interior minister said: They are probably one of the causes, but in my view, they are not the only explanation for the appearance of terrorism. We are in the stage of implementing the economic reform program. We have achieved excellent results in the past three years and Egypt will come out of the economic crisis by 1995.

On the reasons for the Egyptian authorities' refusal to recognize the legal existence of a religious party, Musa said: We have a Christian community and it is not logical to allow the establishment of parties on religious bases as they would endanger society's cohesiveness. Yet the Islamists have the opportunity to conclude alliances with other legal parties as they did with the Labor Party. They can also nominate themselves for any elections as independents.

Cairo Airport Increases Security, Declares Alert

NC1702194593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY
in Arabic 1928 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA)—The security organs at Cairo airport have declared a state of maximum alert. Stringent security measures have been imposed on passengers arriving from some neighboring countries.

The Interior Ministry has received information confirming that some neighboring countries are sending terrorist elements into the country to carry out acts of sabotage.

Cairo airport authorities have intensified their surveillance of passengers arriving from these countries.

Police Arrest 74 'Extremists,' Seize Leaflets

NC1402162093 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT
14 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces arrested 74 Muslim extremists over the weekend, and seized leaflets calling for the government's overthrow as well as assassinations, police said Sunday.

Security forces arrested 35 extremists in Misr al-Qadimah and confiscated 20 weapons, police said. Five other militants were detained in the southern Egyptian village of Bani Suwayf and 33 in the western province of al-Buhayrah.

Another suspect identified as 'Ali Ramadan was captured Sunday in Sahrajat al-Kubra, a village 70 kilometers (43 miles) south of Cairo, who allegedly carried leaflets calling for the assassination of Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din.

Baha'-al-Din has recently been outspoken against attempts by teachers to force young girls to wear the Islamic scarf at school.

Police said Ramadan belonged to the underground al-Jihad group, which was responsible for the killing of President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

Some 500 fundamentalist suspects have been detained over the past 10 days and five arms workshops dismantled.

The authorities accuse the fundamentalists of being behind recent attacks on tourists and police.

A police conscript was wounded in the latest attack overnight Saturday on the Mediterranean town of Marsa Matruh where he was on guard duty outside the home of the regional governor.

Leader of Manfalut Group, 10 'Extremists' Arrested

NC1502163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT
15 Feb 93

[Text] Asyut, 15 Feb (MENA)—Security authorities in Asyut today arrested the leader of the Manfalut extremist group and three of his aides two hours after they had attacked and injured citizens with iron chains.

This was stated by Major General 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali, assistant interior minister and chief of security in Asyut, who said the group's leader, Jalal Sayyid Isma'il, headmaster of Bani Shuqayr Preparatory School in Manfalut, incited three of his aides to commit the crime. Al-Hilali added that all the defendants have been referred to the Prosecutor's Office, which discovered after investigations that two of them are wanted in different cases.

In another development, a security campaign in al-Fayyum has resulted in the capture of seven extremists belonging to the al-Jihad, Hesitation and Confirmation, and Repudiation and Renunciation organizations. They all were referred to the prosecution on charges of involvement in acts of terrorism.

Mubarak Orders Military Trial; Imbabah Leaders Jailed

NC1702165493 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 17 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak has ordered military courts to hold 28 trials of Muslim extremists accused of attacking tourists, the head of military justice said Wednesday.

Mubarak issued a decree transferring the trials to the harsher and speedier courts, General 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Hilal told Wednesday's [17 February] edition of the pro-government AL-AKHBAR newspaper.

Hilal said dates for the trials will be announced after the military prosecutor reviews the cases. He did not say how many accused were involved in the trials.

The constitutional court recently upheld the president's right to order those accused of crimes against the state to be tried by military courts.

The Alexandria military tribunal condemned eight fundamentalists to death in two mass trials in November. The trials lasted a month, compared to procedure in civilian courts which can take years.

Muslim extremists have carried out a series of attacks on holidaymakers, badly affecting the country's vital tourist industry.

Police said Wednesday that they shot dead a Muslim fundamentalist on Tuesday after he and others opened fire on buses taking German tourists through southern Egypt.

No tourists were hurt during the incident at Manfalut, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Asyut.

Police chased the assailants into nearby fields, where they shot one of them who died of his wounds after arriving at the hospital, police said.

Police also arrested the 25-year-old leader of the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) branch for the Cairo slum of Imbabah.

Police said they captured 'Abd-al-Gayid al-Kamash, who was armed with a pistol, during an ambush overnight Tuesday near Imbabah. His arrest means that all of Imbabah's fundamentalist leaders are in jail, they added.

Tunisia

President Returns From State Visit to Portugal

LD160222793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali tonight returned to the homeland from Lisbon after a two-day state visit to Portugal at the invitation of the Portuguese president, Mario Soares. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the Portuguese capital, the president made the following statement: The visit I and my accompanying delegation paid to Portugal was an opportunity to get to know better this friendly country, for which we feel great respect and admiration and with which we are linked by deep-rooted relations of friendship and cooperation. On my departure from this beautiful country, I would like to express my great satisfaction at the positive results from my talks with His Excellency President Mario Soares, Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, and other Portuguese officials. I feel confident that these fruitful results will give new impetus to bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Prior to leaving Lisbon, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a second round of talks with Portuguese President Mario Soares. [passage omitted] An official spokesman said that the two presidents reviewed bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern, and that the president extended an invitation to President Mario Soares to pay a state visit to Tunisia. The Portuguese president accepted the invitation. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit

WAI702103093

For reportage on President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to Portugal, including his talks with officials and his speech at a banquet hosted in his honor, please see the Portugal section of the 17 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Minister on Sudanese 'Interference' in Domestic Affairs

NC1502153093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Tunisian Justice Minister Sadek Shaban [name and title as received] has stressed that his country has irrefutable evidence of Sudan's interference in Tunisian domestic affairs, noting that this is why Tunisia froze its relations with Sudan until the latter reconsiders its actions in Tunisia.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, the Tunisian minister said that Tunisia recently noticed an increase in Sudanese interference in its domestic affairs and an increase in the past few months in direct and indirect contacts between certain Tunisian groups that are colluding and Sudanese leaders. Sudanese groups are helping certain Tunisians with funds and weapons, he said.

The Tunisian minister said: It has been proven that these groups are seeking to harm Tunisia's interests and people. They prepared to carry out subversive acts to create chaos and disrupt security in the country. He noted that the Algerian experiment demonstrated that the extremist movements do not comply with the rules of democracy.

The Tunisian minister praised Egyptian-Tunisian cooperation to confront the extremist groups' activities. He said that this cooperation has existed for a long time to protect our society from all forms of extremism and terrorism. He pointed out that Egypt's legislation on combating terrorism has been studied so that Tunisia also may pursue such measures, and that his country is preparing comprehensive legislation along the lines of Egypt's. He noted that during his recent visit to Egypt, agreement was reached on increasing judicial cooperation between the two countries to eliminate all terrorist and criminal activities that harm the two countries' interests. He said that the judicial and legal cooperation agreement between Tunisia and Egypt was amended so that criminals might be extradited and tried in the two countries.

Al-Nahdah's Ghannouchi on Domestic, Foreign Affairs

NC1802070193 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Feb 93 pp 30-31

[Interview with Rached Ghannouchi, leader of Tunisia's al-Nahdah Movement, by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Husayni] Do you think there is a chance of dialogue with the government or will you decide to take to the streets and fight an underground war, similar to that going on in Algeria?

[Ghannouchi] We in the al-Nahdah Movement and our colleagues in the opposition still reject the custodianship of the one-party rule and police control of people's lives. We fight to change the circumstances for the people's sake. One day the rulers will understand that neither their custodianship over the country nor their monopoly on political decisionmaking can last forever. When the earth shakes under their feet, they will learn to respect the people's will and negotiate with the people's representatives on a suitable system for governing Tunisia.

Our differences with the government are not over words, but over making the Tunisian Constitution a political reality, making a state of law, not one of the president, police, and a single party. Then dialogue will be meaningful. Our position remains: Dialogue is the only way to resolve intellectual and political disputes. Our message can reach its audience through persuasion. Nothing spreads our message better than an atmosphere of peace and dialogue. But who can convince the other side to abandon the heavy stick when that is all it has? The other side does not want to enter the ideas market and look for support. Only turbulence in the streets and rioting masses could persuade the tyrants to hold a dialogue or surrender authority. This is the direction in which we are heading.

True, today we are a movement, in that we are banned according to the president's unjust law. But secrecy has never been part of our program. Violence has never been on our agenda. Our situation is a result of the country's abnormal situation, the continuing repression, and the government's refusal to allow the masses to engage in peaceful activities. My real fear is that the situation in Tunisia may develop in much the same way as that in Algeria or Egypt. In these two countries, the authorities exercise political, economic, and intellectual repression and the opposition responds with reprisals against the state's repressive bodies and economic resources, such as tourism and public utilities. This could also happen in other Arab countries. I am afraid that the change toward democracy in our country will not come about gradually, but through upheaval. This is not our movement's preference, but history is not governed by good intentions.

[Al-Husayni] Do you specifically support the political lines in Iran and Sudan?

[Ghannouchi] If you are asking me whether we support Sudan and Iran in their efforts to get rid of economic, political, and cultural subservience and to use religion to mobilize the masses, confront the challenges facing the nation, and establish modern Islamic patterns, I say yes. We do support them.

I believe the Islamic revolution in Iran has taken Iran back to the Arab and Islamic nation. But many mistakes were made later by the Iranian and Arab sides by encouraging and enticing the international order. These mistakes, such

as the first and second Gulf wars, have prevented the Arab and Islamic nation from using this return, which could have served everyone.

As for Sudan, the experiment is new but liable to turn the poorest Arab and Islamic country into a developing one. Sudan was about to collapse because of a fragile democracy, unsuccessful party trends, and the presence of Garang's group, which harbors enmity toward the Arabs and Muslims and seeks to create another Israel on the Nile. The achievements of those leading Sudan, particularly the salvation operation, should be appreciated by the pan-Arab and Islamic homeland and should be enough for us to support them. The important process of development has made Sudan a workshop for development.

[Al-Husayni] What are your real relations with Sudan and are your young people being trained there?

[Ghannouchi] It is a security scenario concocted by Tunisian and Egyptian intelligence to justify unacceptable repressive local policies and to enable their regimes to play a security role within the new international order and within the framework of resisting what they call the danger of fundamentalism.

Although the Sudanese Government has invited the Egyptian and Tunisian regimes and anyone else to inspect the alleged camps, no one has responded, because they know that the talk is baseless and has an ulterior motive. It is the method of the weak ruler who fears his people and wants to blame others, as Bourguiba did with Iran when he severed his relations with it over leaflets distributed in Tunisia. Ben Ali is currently trying to repeat this scenario with Sudan.

[Al-Husayni] Is your movement an Islamic fundamentalist movement or is it a democratic opposition movement that raises the banner of Islam?

[Ghannouchi] If it is an Islamic movement, it will be something we are proud of. If it is fundamentalist, this depends on what you mean by fundamentalism. If fundamentalism means that you claim to possess the absolute truth and try to impose it on others by force—in the way French philosopher Garoudi defines fundamentalism, as Integresme—then we are not that. We believe that while there are unshifting principles in Islam, there is room to interpret things. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] It is being said that certain circles in the U.S. Congress is behind your moves in the West against President Ben Ali and his government. What is your comment?

[Ghannouchi] I have already told you that we believe dialogue takes priority as a means of solving ideological and political conflicts, not war, especially as the world has become a small island with a common fate created by dialogue and justice, not injustice and war.

Regarding the West, we still reject the simplified logic that sees the West, including the United States, as a single truth hostile to Islam and Arabism. The West is a civilized, historic, political, economic, military, and cultural entity that is very complicated, like other civilized entities. Historically, while enmity and disagreement have prevailed over and characterized relations between this entity and ours, that was not the only aspect or the inevitable or lasting fate. Although Zionist organizations would try to upset relations between Western and Islamic civilizations whenever we tried to enrich each other by our experiences, there remain voices, even broad establishments in the West, that struggle to have rational relationships with Islam and Arabism based on dialogue, justice, integration, and mutual benefits.

In a recent important report by Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, in which he signaled the start of a U.S. move toward Islam and Islamic movements, he replied to the rising voices that say the United States is hostile to Islam and Islamic movements. He emphasized the rich Islamic heritage that upholds justice and tolerance and its contribution to American renaissance. He said the United States is not against Islam or Islamic movements, but against extremism from wherever it comes. We appreciated this move and regarded it positively. We support an Islamic move toward dialogue with the West on the academic, religious, and political levels. While we denounce Western and U.S. schemes against the nation of the Arabs and Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia, and Kashmir and reject the West's support of the rule of tanks and armies that crush ballot boxes, we feel grateful for the political, religious, and academic figures and Western humanitarian organizations that confront the official Western policies that unreservedly propagate all that is hostile to the Arabs and Muslims. Societies of this kind in the United Kingdom, France, the United States, and elsewhere have supported us. True, these forces have limited influence compared with the hostile forces that give unlimited support to Ben Ali, but we are confident that the future belongs to dialogue, ideas, democracy, freedom, and Islam. There is no future for dictatorship and the gallows.

We tell all patriotic Arabs, regardless of how much they differ with the al-Nahdah Movement's programs, that the target today is Tunisia's Arab and Islamic identity under the pretext of resisting fundamentalism. The target is the democratic demand, which is dear to all Tunisians, regardless of their beliefs.

Bahrain**Russian Defense Minister Grachev Arrives in Manama***JN1602145093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 93*

[Text] Manama, 16 Feb (WAKH)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Manama today on a visit to Bahrain.

The Russian minister was received by Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force.

During his visit, the Russian defense minister will hold talks on issues of mutual concern and ways of promoting bilateral cooperation.

Prime Minister Receives Jordanian Minister*JN1702142393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, this morning received Jordanian Health Minister Dr. 'Arif al-Bataynah, who conveyed to his highness an oral message from His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Jordan's prime minister. He discussed with his highness relations between Bahrain and Jordan and ways of promoting them. Talks also dealt with a host of current Arab and international issues.

Kuwait**National Assembly Speaker on Ties With Iraq, Iran***NC1702180093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1439 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—On the situation in the Gulf and relations with Iran, AKHIR SA'AH publishes the following interview with Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun today:

[AKHIR SA'AH] The notion of holding a comprehensive Arab reconciliation, including the Gulf countries themselves, has recently gained ground in the Arab world. We recall in this respect the call made by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan. Questions remain about Kuwait's stand on such moves, however. Are there Kuwaiti conditions for such a reconciliation?

[Al-Sa'dun] We do not prevent anyone from saying what he wants. At the same time, we believe that no one can ask us to talk about an Arab reconciliation or a reconciliation with Iraq or the countries that supported it: Jordan, Sudan, and the PLO. It is easy for one to say "let bygones be bygones," but it is not easy for us in Kuwait to say it. The Kuwaiti citizen is still deeply wounded. A Kuwaiti who was in the country during the invasion and saw his son killed before his own eyes and a mother who saw her

daughter raped cannot agree to any talk about reconciliation or forgiveness. [passage omitted]

[AKHIR SA'AH] But don't you believe that the statement by Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz that the Kuwait file has been closed is enough to discuss a framework for resolving the political problems between the two countries?

[Al-Sa'dun] This is political demagoguery.

[AKHIR SA'AH] Why?

[Al-Sa'dun] Because the Iraqi regime and its media that address the Iraqi people say the opposite. The regime is still teaching in all its schools that Kuwait is part of Iraq. Its actions do not support what 'Aziz is saying. If the Kuwait file is really closed, why doesn't it then release the prisoners, declare its commitment to the demarcation of borders, announce that it has no ambitions in or demands from Kuwait, start paying compensation, and comply with all the UN and Security Council resolutions?

[AKHIR SA'AH] Iraq announced that it has complied with 90 percent of the UN resolutions.

[Al-Sa'dun] Even if they implement 99 percent and the prisoner issue remains, we will regard the resolutions as not being implemented. Should they implement all the resolutions but not recognize Kuwait and its borders, then the issue will not be reconsidered. We have to define the 90 percent Iraq is talking about. For example, Iraq still does not recognize the issue of the prisoners and denies that there are any despite the fact that Kuwait has handed over the files of 617 prisoners. A number of these files contain documents from the Iraqi regime itself that show where they were arrested—some in their houses, others in the mosques or streets—and where they were imprisoned: Kuwait or Iraq. Yet Iraq continues to deny all this. It is still not committed to the demarcation of the borders and recently violated the Kuwaiti borders before being subjected to the coalition bombings.

[AKHIR SA'AH] Let us argue the matter. Do you believe that Iraq, in its current condition, poses a threat to Kuwait after all the blows dealt to it?

[Al-Sa'dun] We are not talking about the Iraqi regime in its present condition. There is an international community and a coalition that is still cohesive. Suffice it to say that the latest UN resolution increased the number of UN forces on the borders between Kuwait and Iraq. We are talking about longstanding and continuing ambitions, ambitions that are being fed to every Iraqi citizen.

[AKHIR SA'AH] Who asked Yasir 'Arafat to mediate in the POW issue?

[Al-Sa'dun] I do not know. What 'Arafat does is of no great concern to me.

[AKHIR SA'AH] He did mention, however, that more than one Kuwaiti delegation, apparently popular delegation, asked him to play this role.

[Al-Sa'dun] This does not concern me.

[AKHIR SA'AH] Do you believe that heavily armed Iran, which continues to occupy the Abu Musa Island and several other Arab islands, poses a threat to the Gulf—to the extent that some reports are speaking of a possible Iranian threat now that the Iraqi threat is over?

[Al-Sa'dun] I do not want to provoke a new battle with Iran. It is a major regional power. It has not spoken of ambitions. It might have interests but we do not want to make an issue of this now. Certainly we would not accept Iran threatening any Arab country or replacing Iraq as a threat to the Gulf states. Still it is not wise to provoke a battle with Iran. Gulf security is primarily Arab and part of pan-Arab security. We used to believe, regrettably, that Arab security came under one umbrella, that of the Joint Arab Defense Pact. That pact, however, fell with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and no one adhered to it except the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria. It was this that made the six Gulf states move in the direction of Cairo and Damascus, who adhered to the Joint Arab Defense Pact. The Damascus Declaration followed, which we hope will become the nucleus of a collective Arab defense order.

[AKHIR SA'AH] Some in the Gulf believe that Turkey, in particular, will be the alternative to the two regional powers, Iraq and Iran. Is this linked with the reports that it obtained \$3 billion during Turkish Prime Minister Demirel's recent visit?

[Al-Sa'dun] These are inaccurate reports. When Prime Minister Demirel visited the Gulf, he came to thank the Gulf countries for their aid to his country. A decision to grant this aid was made in the first days following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait when we urged Turkey to adopt a stand on the invasion—just as we did with other influential countries—and asked it to stop the transit of oil through its territory and to allow the allied forces to use those territories. Turkey obliged. We knew it was going to suffer losses as a result and the Gulf countries decided to extend aid to it. Kuwait's share was \$1 billion. We paid the first installment of this sum in 1991 and another in 1992. Therefore no decisions were made to extend new aid or loans to Turkey during Demirel's visit. Published reports about Demirel getting \$1 billion in this manner are incorrect. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Seeks OPEC Understanding

LD1202231793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli has expressed the hope that the OPEC member states will understand the special situation of Kuwait since the brutal Iraqi invasion, which caused considerable damage to the infrastructure of the oil sector in Kuwait. This came in a statement given by the oil minister to KUNA after his arrival in Vienna tonight from Frankfurt, leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the OPEC ministerial committee's meetings for control of the market and production, which starts in Vienna on Saturday.

The oil minister stressed that Kuwait is ready to cooperate with OPEC in order to serve the common interest by

supporting a stability of prices, and taking into consideration its special situation resulting from the Iraqi regime's aggression against the State of Kuwait.

'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli stressed that the current development of Kuwaiti oil production is in accordance with the OPEC agreement of last November, which gave absolute freedom to Kuwait to produce any additional quantities until the end of the first quarter of this year, and according to its production capacity. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister Receives Romanian Official Message

JN1702154893 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, has received a written message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The message was presented to His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when he received in his office this morning Gheorghe Tinca, Romanian deputy foreign minister. The Romanian dignitary also conveyed President Iliescu's greetings and good wishes to his majesty and his wise government.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Romulus-Doru Giugariu-Costea, Romanian ambassador to the Sultanate; and the delegation accompanying the Romanian deputy foreign minister. The officials discussed relations between the two friendly countries and reviewed efforts under way to consolidate security and peace on the regional and international levels. They also discussed a host of issues of mutual concern.

The Romanian guest and his delegation expressed pride over their visit, which has afforded them an opportunity to get acquainted with the overall course of progress in Oman. The guest also lauded both the talks held with His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id and their good outcome, which will bolster relations between the two friendly countries in various fields.

Qatar

Jordanian Communications Minister Meets Counterpart

JN1702133093 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Doha, 17 Feb (PETRA)—Jordanian Minister of Communications Jamal al-Sarayirah met with 'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Mani', Qatari minister of communications and transportation, in Doha yesterday.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with bilateral cooperation, especially in the communications and transportation sector. [passage omitted]

The minister of communications arrived in Doha yesterday on a several-day visit to Qatar at the invitation of

the Qatari minister of transportation to take part in the opening of a Gulf Air center for training pilots and to hold talks with Qatari officials on developing relations between the two fraternal countries.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Views Christopher's Upcoming Mideast Tour

LD1802091693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0335 GMT
18 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh 18 Feb (SPA)—The newspaper AL-BILAD under the headline: "Continuation and Exploration" says that although Warren Christopher's tour is commonly called exploratory the truth is somewhat far from this because there is no dividing line between the American role during the time of President Bush and the American role during the time of President Clinton. Therefore, the meeting of the U.S. secretary of state with the leaders of the countries he is going to visit is a natural continuation of the intensive efforts of his predecessor James Baker. [passage omitted]

The paper says that it is more correct to say that in the capitals of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process which he will be visiting, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will find nothing but the principled stands through which the peace process started in Madrid two years ago. Anything new is to be found in Israel which so publicly and so clearly blocked the road against the peace efforts by deporting well over 400 Palestinians. In so doing it violated the international charters, code of practice and the Geneva agreements. In so doing also it confirmed without any doubt its ill intentions and its disregard for international resolutions.

Russian Minister Briefed on Shari'ah Courts

LD1802104193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Russian Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov yesterday visited Jeddah's High Court and he was met by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Khayyal, the head of Jeddah's high courts, and a number of shaykhs. The Russian minister reviewed litigation procedures in the Kingdom's shari'ah [Islamic law] courts, and the head of Jeddah's High Court explained to his excellency the good and concrete effects on the aspects of life in the Kingdom as a result of implementing shari'ah.

Italian Defense Minister Signs Cooperation Pact

LD1802112793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, held a meeting last night with His Excellency Italian Defense Minister Salvo Ando and the delegation accompanying

him. During the meeting, a framework agreement to cooperate in the military, industrial, research, and technology spheres was signed.

Dhaka, Riyadh Decide To Set Up Forum for Talks

BK1802035893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have decided to set up a Standing Committee to provide an institutional forum for regular consultations between the two countries. The decision was taken at a meeting between the foreign minister, Mustafizur Rahman, and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal in Riyadh on Tuesday [16 February]. They exchanged views on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern, particularly those relating to the Islamic ummah [world]. On bilateral economic cooperation, the two foreign ministers reviewed the commendable work done under the framework of Saudi-Bangladesh Joint Commission and strengthening of the process of cooperation in the coming years. Their talks also covered international issues like Rohingya refugees, Afghan conflict, Middle East peace process, and the Serb aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

United Arab Emirates

Russia Offers Missile 'Far Superior' to U.S. Patriot

NC1502223493 Paris AFP in English 2124 GMT
15 Feb 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 15 (AFP) - Russia is offering for sale at an international arms show in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) an advanced anti-missile missile which it says is far more accurate than the U.S. Patriot.

The eight-metre S 300-V Russian missile has a ground-to-air range of 30 kilometres (18 miles) and a surface-to-surface range of 100 kilometres (62 miles). It has 70 percent accuracy, more than double the Patriot's average.

"Its accuracy is 70 percent if you push one missile from the launcher and 90 percent for two missiles. The Patriot has an accuracy of only 30 percent for one missile," Russian delegate Viktor Epifonov [name as received] told AFP. He said the S 300-V had been successfully tested against the Russian-built Scud missiles.

"Our tests involved several Scud missiles and most of them were downed. The test showed our missile is far superior to the Patriot," he said. "This is also the opinion of the Americans themselves. They told me ours is better when I visited the producing company in December."

A modified version of the Scuds were fired by Iraq against Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war and Patriots were used against them but Viktor said most of them missed.

The Russian missile can also destroy several other missiles in air, including the U.S. short-range Lance and middle-range Pershing.

The S 300-V was produced in 1986 and had not been sold to any country. But last year Russia, keen to attract funds to support the switch to market economy, lifted the ban on its sale.

The missile is among several defence items on display at the Russian stand in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where 350 companies from 34 countries, including the United States and Britain, are also exhibiting their ware.

The Russian pavilion, one of the biggest at the show, also includes the latest version of the T-80 U tank, surface-to-air SAM missiles, armoured vehicles and other defence equipment.

Epifonov said the United States was developing a modified version of the Patriot called PAC-3.

"It could be better than ours, but we are also developing a new version," he added.

According to a brochure handed out by the Russians, the S 300-V, a multichannel all-weather system, can guarantee a security range of 600 square kilometres. It is also a mobile system designed to protect army units and important

battlefield targets against tactical and near-strategic ballistic missiles as well as aerodynamics means of enemy force. The radar-directed system could intercept up to 24 targets simultaneously, guiding up to two missiles from one launcher and up to four missiles from two launchers to each target.

* Oil Minister Ready To Cut Production

93P50052A

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic of 11 February 1993 on p 11 conducted an interview with UAE [United Arab Emirates] Oil Minister Yusuf 'Umayr Bin-Yusuf in Abu Dhabi. The minister told correspondent Shafiq al-Asadi that the UAE will cut its production of crude oil in support of OPEC's efforts to support prices. He called for OPEC to cut production at least to a level of 23,582,000 barrels per day as of 1 March and to extend this decreased rate of production for four months. The minister said that he believes that a cut of a million barrels per day will lead to a drawdown of reserves of between 500,000 to 800,000 barrels per day.

Bin-Yusuf said that the OPEC countries and the non-OPEC oil-producing countries will meet around the middle of April in Muscat to study various means of cooperation, especially in stabilizing the oil market. He said that the non-OPEC countries had expressed readiness to support oil prices in cooperation with OPEC.

Saddam Reportedly Proposes Anti-Iran Alliance*JN1702182193 Nicosia AL-SHAMS in Arabic 6 Feb 93
p 1*

[Text] AL-SHAMS has learned from Gulf sources that Saddam Husayn has proposed a new alliance with certain Arab states to confront the so-called Iranian and Shiite danger. These sources revealed the contents of a letter from Saddam Husayn in which he called for forgetting the past and checking both Iran's influence and the Shiite danger.

Regarding these states' reaction to this offer, the same sources said that more than one Arab state said that the current crisis resulted from invading Kuwait and threatening Saudi Arabia's security, and that there was no sectarian or Iranian danger behind this invasion unless the Iraqi president was acting in collusion with Iran.

Paper Warns About Flow of Soviet Weapons to Iran*JN1802101393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT
18 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military paper has warned the world community of the threat posed by the continued flow of surplus weapons from the former Soviet republics to various parties.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, also warns against the emergence of new forces which may become very influential in international politics due to the lack of control over the weapons arsenals possessed by these republics.

The paper points out that many Third World countries, including Iran, have managed to obtain some of these modern weapons.

The paper asserts that Iran, which has obtained various types of these weapons, has also managed to supply weapons to many of the movements working on its behalf, especially in Afghanistan.

The paper notes that many of these republics justify such conduct on the basis of their urgent need for hard currency to support their collapsing economies.

Story of 'Zionists' Operating in North Reported*JN1602170093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 93*

[Text] In its latest issue, the weekly AL-MUHARRIR says that the agent cliques in northern Iraq are preparing to receive more Zionists within the context of their cooperation and coordination.

The Paris-based paper cites an agent called 'Abdallah as saying that Zionist military experts have been residing in Zakho, al-Sulaymaniyah, and other border villages since the 30-state aggression against Iraq, from where they supervise the training of their agent Kurds. The agent 'Abdallah says scores of Zionist officers and officials from the Zionist housing, interior, and settlement ministries

regularly visit northern Iraq and that some of them reside in the region with the agents of Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

The Zionist paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT had revealed further details on the suspect relation between the subversive cliques terrorizing our Kurdish people in northern Iraq and the Zionist enemy. The paper says a correspondent from the paper toured northern Iraq for eight days during which he met with Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, discussing support which the Zionist entity can provide to the agent cliques. The paper says that during a meeting with the correspondent, Talabani urged the Zionist entity to help the Kurds.

Saddam Said To Offer U.S. 'Generous' Concessions*JN1702163593 Nicosia AL-SHAMS in Arabic 6 Feb 93
p 1*

[Text] High-level Arab political sources have told AL-SHAMS that Saddam Husayn has proposed large and serious concessions to the new U.S. Administration in return for ending the current conflict and opening a new chapter between the two parties. These sources added that the offer was made during the so-called missile crisis and was conveyed by Nizar Hamdun, Saddam Husayn's ambassador to the United Nations. Hamdun detailed this offer in an unannounced meeting with several friends shortly before the new U.S. President took office.

Among Saddam's concessions are the following: Granting military facilities to the United States in Iraq for 25 years; pledging to stand against Iran as long as the United States desires; selling oil from Majnun Island to U.S. firms and granting them preferential treatment on oil exploration concessions. The same sources also said that the U.S. Administration continues to exert pressure in all directions while its specialists are studying this generous offer, especially since several people close to Clinton believe that this offer can be realized with or without Saddam; in other words, without the United States losing its credibility. Therefore, Nizar Hamdun was informed that the new administration's policy is based on the need for Saddam to abide fully by all Security Council resolutions as a prelude to considering Saddam Husayn's future.

It is known that the Baghdad regime sought to conclude trade deals with French, British, and Japanese firms working in oil marketing and production, but its endeavors were thwarted by the U.S. obstacle. Some people believe that one of the reasons behind the declaration of the no-fly zone was to prevent Saddam from selling oil from Majnun Island to Japan or France.

Escalation Urged During Christopher Tour*JN1702190593 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Warren Christopher is due in the region on the first visit by the Clinton administration's secretary of state to follow up on the negotiations and other topics of interest to

the U.S. Administration. Will Christopher, during his visit to the region, conduct shuttle tours, as was done by his predecessors Kissinger and James Baker? The U.S. Administration is the same irrespective of the names of its representatives. Every time and during each tour, it conveys the same message and seeks to achieve the same objectives. Christopher, too, will seek to secure more gains and assurances for the Zionists, and to wrench further concessions from the Arab parties to the settlement negotiations.

The Clinton administration's secretary of state is bringing nothing new. The aim of his visit is clear and known to all the sons of our people. Therefore, our people's message to this unwanted and unwelcome visitor is further escalation, confrontation, and clashes with the invading enemy troops. Our people will continue their blessed intifadah—the language of our people—until it achieves the objectives for the sake of which it was launched.

Some capitals will extend their arms and throw open their gates to welcome Christopher. They will give him many descriptions and titles, and they will consider his visit an important event. However, all these gimmicks will not fool our people, who affirm their role in the political and militant life of the region. This role is represented by escalating the intifadah and continuing the revolution until final victory is achieved and until the entire homeland is liberated. This is language to which Christopher and his welcomers are trying to turn a deaf ear.

Saddam Reportedly Asks al-Dawud To Form Cabinet

JN1702202093 Nicosia AL-SHAMS in Arabic 6 Feb 93
p 1

[Text] Saddam Husayn has asked Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-Dawud [former defense minister in 1968] to form a cabinet and elect a number of ministers in return for any reconciliation between them.

This offer was conveyed to al-Dawud by an Iraqi intelligence officer who works under opposition cover. Al-Dawud rejected the offer and insisted that Saddam step down in order to safeguard Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

Saddam has been preparing this offer for a long time. Last May, another opposition member visited him [al-Dawud], and proposed the idea of either reconciling with Saddam Husayn or giving up politics forever.

Defense Minister Visits Military Unit Commands

JN1702205493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, today visited the command of al-Rashid forces, affiliated with the heroic 1st Army Corps. During the visit, he met with the fighter commander of the al-Rashid forces, who holds the rank of staff major general. The minister was briefed on the units' activities and the fighters' high

preparedness to defend the homeland against all enemies and their defeated agents and lackeys.

The fighter defense minister said: We all must be guided by the instructions of our mujahid leader Saddam Husayn to our gigantic Army. Each one of us should add something to the creative and continuous process of constructing and developing our Armed Forces. Each one of us should exert innovative and increased efforts to build our Army's high edifice. This is because it is a noble army of immortal national and pan-Arab stands, and it deserves these sacrifices from us all.

The fighter defense minister stressed the need to avoid inattentiveness, calling on all fighters to be in a constant state of preparedness. He said that this should always be kept in mind at all levels of leadership to deny our defeated enemies the opportunity to harm us.

In another development, fighter General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, today visited the command of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim forces. During the visit, he met with the commander of the forces and the commanders of the divisions operating in the sector. He was briefed by them on the units' activities and the fighters' high morale and preparedness to defend the national soil and the steadfast people of Iraq against all enemies.

The fighter defense minister commended the advanced performance of the fighter commanders, officers, and other ranks during their execution of various tactical exercises in the al-Rashid forces' sector of operations, in comparison with their performance in their first exercise last year—the Men's Resolve exercise—and their recent The Leader's Sword exercise. He instructed that the fighters of the Mahmud Formation from Ajnadin Forces be awarded for their distinctive performance during their exercise yesterday, which they carried out with a lively team spirit.

Addressing the commanders, the fighter defense minister said: We should all pay serious attention to training and exercises, because they constitute the backbone of a lively, mobile army, one which seeks development and benefits from the lessons of exercises to achieve objectives on the field with a minimum level of loss.

The meeting was attended by the fighter commander of al-Rashid forces and the two comrade secretaries of the al-Rashid and Muhammad al-Qasim military branches of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Finance Minister Notes Economy's Strength

JN1702171993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] In an interview with an INA correspondent, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn was asked to comment on rumors of intended government measures that would affect the nation's currency. The minister replied that rumors concerning the issuance of new banknotes to replace or to circulate side by side with the current legal banknotes, or to devalue the currency, are all merely part

of the attempts by anti-Iraq forces to harm Iraq's steadfastness as it continues its drive for reconstruction and economic development, and its measures aimed at combating economic sabotage. He added that such attempts include, among other things, counterfeiting the national currency. He affirmed that the propagation of such rumors began after the failure of all past attempts and the Iraqi economy's success in remaining firm thanks to its unique resources and potential. He said that in light of this, all quarters view Iraq as a promising economic center capable of achieving well-being and prosperity for its people in the future, God willing.

The minister affirmed that the strength of the national currency depends on the strength and status of the national economy, and its being in possession of various elements that rarely exist together in one country. He said that the economy's strength should not be measured in light of the current exceptional circumstances being experienced by Iraq.

Concerning deposits, the minister said that the flow of withdrawals and deposits at commercial banks is quite normal, adding that citizens are absolutely free to withdraw or deposit whatever amounts of money they wish. He added that available indications clearly affirm that there is an increase in the various types of deposits, be they in checking, savings, or fixed accounts. He said that this reflects citizens' confidence in the banking system, particularly after interest rates were restructured and increased, something that has resulted in good annual profits for depositors.

To conclude his interview with INA, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn dismissed as unfounded the rumors of measures that would harm citizens' funds held in banks. He stressed that these tendentious rumors will not manage to stop the wheels of progress in our beloved country under that inspired knight, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Ramadan on Attempts To Distort Jordan-Iraq Ties

*JN1602115993 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
16 Feb 93 p 1*

[Excerpts] Baghdad—In statements to AL-MUSTAQBAL, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that Iraq is aware of the pressures and dishonest attempts by Americans, Europeans, and Arabs to harm Iraqi-Jordanian relations, affirming that what was recently reported about the death of the Iraqi engineer is within the framework of these hostile attempts, but in a different manner. He added: What happened could happen anywhere.

Ramadan affirmed that he is confident that Jordanian-Iraqi relations will be enhanced in the forthcoming stage, thus putting an end to the rumors about these relations.

Ramadan went on to say that the Iraqi-Jordanian relationship is not a relationship for a specific period of time and

that intra-Arab relations should be normal and disputes transient. This is because we are one family, but with different opinions.

The Iraqi vice president added: We have worked with all means in this direction and I believe we have achieved something unique if compared to what existed before. He affirmed that prior to the Mother of Battles, attempts were made to harm the Iraqi-Jordanian relationship but we believe that the roots of this relationship and its dimensions, not to mention the special relations between the two countries' officials, are far stronger than all these attempts.

On whether Iraq could, at a later stage, play a supportive role for the Arab and Palestinian position in the peace talks, Ramadan said: This cause is the responsibility of all the Arabs but, certainly, it is the Palestinians' responsibility first. The PLO also is the most capable of finding ways to confront the aggression against the Palestinians, just as we are the most capable of finding ways to confront aggression us.

On Iraq's need for more democracy and political pluralism, Ramadan said that this will materialize when the time is right. Logic says that the forces are now confronting the conspiracy and cannot accept conflicting reactions and policies from which the enemy benefits. [passage omitted]

On Iranian-Iraqi relations, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: We are still skeptical about Iran's intentions. Past events confirm our doubts about Iran's intentions and that it has designs in the region.

Ramadan denied that there has been any contact with the Kurdish opposition parties. He described them as traitors. He said that there is no improvement in Iraqi-Turkish relations on the official level, and that he cannot take seriously what Ozal says, just as he cannot take seriously what Mubarak says also. He added: However, the nationalist parties and organizations are playing a positive role and this will bolster the relations between the two neighbor countries.

Kuwaiti Efforts To Continue Embargo Criticized

*JN1702123593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT
17 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the midget agents in Kuwait have continued to play their openly conspiratorial role aimed at harming Iraq and its people, forgetting that their scandals have been found repulsive both inside and outside Kuwait.

In an article entitled "They are Continuing to Play Their Conspiratorial Role," published today, the paper adds: The agents of the al-Sabah family are endeavoring, through dirty means, to enlist the support of the imperialist West against steadfast Iraq. However, these despicable agents will remain incapable of undermining the Iraqi people's will and their heroic steadfastness, no matter how far they go in their conspiracies and treason.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Given Iraq's firmness, steadfastness, and patience, many world capitals have begun to

reevaluate their positions and reconsider their calculations regarding Iraq, particularly since Iraq has honored its commitments to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The paper notes the reports recently carried by news agencies that the rancorous brokers in Kuwait are endeavoring to bribe the U.S. Administration to enlist its support against Iraq by offering it over \$31 billion in the form of investment projects to reinvigorate the U.S. economy provided that the anti-Iraq embargo is perpetuated.

The paper adds: The conditions set by Kuwait's squanderers are viewed as a political scandal despite the alluring temptation involved. This offer could be regarded as acceptable to this or that firm, this or that state, and to this or that institution which has sacrificed ethics on the altar of money. Some politicians in this or that capital might also be attracted by this offer. The reference here is to those whose interests converge with those of the enemies of the Iraqi people and our Arab nation. However, this offer has not been met with a rapid positive response, as was the case in the past.

The paper continues: The al-Sabah family, which is oppressing our kinfolk in Kuwait, has not yet learned its lesson. It has continued to show political recklessness and react in a stupid and desperate manner to harm our patient people.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The Kuwaiti brokers are offering their cheap commodities for sale at various international markets, using petrodollars as bait. They are using bribes for political purposes to corrupt others and cause further harm and aggression to the Iraqi people. All this is prompted by their fear of the punishment awaiting them because they have gone too far in their crimes and sins, which have indeed exceeded all bounds.

Paper on Iranian, Saudi Attempts To 'Undermine' PLO

JN1302112393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT
13 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—The newspaper BABIL today denounced the suspect role the Saudi and Iranian regimes are playing to undermine the Palestinian intifadah, the PLO, and its legitimate leadership.

In an article appearing today under the headline "For Whom The Bells Toll," 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin [President Saddam Husayn's press adviser] says: The Saudi and Iranian regimes have started to demand 40 percent of the seats on the Palestine National Council and in the PLO. They will tomorrow demand 100 percent, and the day after that the Palestinian people's cause and the Palestinian intifadah will be in their hands.

The paper warns against these two regime's attitude toward the Palestine question. It says: The relationship with Iran is no secret. This is the Iranian method; to go after every virtue and every promising action to sabotage and contaminate them with stinking and rotten ideology. As for the relationship with Saudi Arabia, it was recently

exposed by Western media. These two governments do not worship God, but the world Jewish movement.

The paper says: If these two regimes are today clashing with the Zionist entity, that objective certainly has calculated ends; namely to bolster their popularity and pull the rug out from under the feet of the Palestinian people's legitimate Arab nationalist leadership and intifadah, as well as their organization, hoping to turn it into a backward leadership which would end up as an agent leadership, even if it does not start as such, before handing over the Palestinian people's cause, once and for all, to Zionism.

The paper concludes its article by saying: If there are some people who still have doubts about Iran and the subversive role it plays inside the liberation movements, then all they have to do is look at what happened in Lebanon and Iraq, as well as what is now happening in Palestine.

Bank Governor Denies Rumors on Funds, Currency

JN1502183593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Interview with Central Bank of Iraq Governor Tariq al-Takmaji by Dawud al-Farhan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Farhan] Good evening. My name is Dawud al-Farhan. I am a journalist. I have a modest account at the al-Rafidayn Bank and I was asked by the television to conduct this interview with the person who controls the most substantial account in the Iraqi state in view of his official post: Mr. Tariq al-Takmaji, governor of the Central Bank of Iraq. Good evening, Mr. Tariq.

[Al-Takmaji] Good evening.

[Al-Farhan] Let us start by asking about the condition of Iraqi banks. We hope they are all right.

[Al-Takmaji] They are all right, thank God.

[Al-Farhan] To start with, can we talk about the volume of Iraqi funds movement within banks?

[Al-Takmaji] Deposits at banks increased substantially within the past six months. They increased from May 1992 to the end of 1992 by approximately 40 percent. And, since the new interest rate structure was introduced to encourage savings, the initial signs show that until 31 January, there was a increase of about 10 percent. However, we need some time to allow the new interest rates to play their full role in affecting the volume of these deposits. This, in fact, demonstrates confidence in the banking system, as well as confidence in the Iraqi currency.

[Al-Farhan] This means that the increase in interest rates has produced positive results?

[Al-Takmaji] Certainly. Certainly.

[Al-Farhan] Mr. Tariq, some people say there is a decision to restrict or limit the withdrawal of large amounts of

money from banks. For example, if I have deposited 1 million dinars and wish to withdraw that amount at one time, would you allow this?

[Al-Takmaji] Certainly. Lawfully, and according to established norms, that money is yours and you can withdraw it without....

[Al-Farhan, interrupting] obstacles?

[Al-Takmaji] Yes, without any obstacle. There are no instructions by the Central Bank or the Finance Ministry or the bank managements limiting withdrawals to a certain amount. There are no limitations at all.

[Al-Farhan] Let me assure you that I do not have a million dinars, but this is one of the questions the public is asking. It is said that the state will expropriate 50 percent of the funds deposited at banks when the embargo is lifted.

[Al-Takmaji] No.

[Al-Farhan] This rumor is spreading among the people. We hope you will be kind enough to give us an answer.

[Al-Takmaji] First, I do not know why such a measure should be taken after the blockade is lifted, and not before. Second, why do they put the ratio at 50 percent? And, third, why should there be any expropriation in the first place? The rumor is, in my opinion, largely tendentious and unfounded. There is no intention—neither now nor after the blockade is lifted, whenever it is lifted—to touch the private funds deposited at banks.

[Al-Farhan] There is another part to this question. It is said that the banks will only pay out half the deposits after the blockade is lifted.

[Al-Takmaji] Absolutely not. This question is related to the previous one, and the answer is the same. Absolutely not. There are no limits. Regardless of the amount deposited at banks or the kind of account—savings, current, or deposit account—no limits to withdrawals are set.

[Al-Farhan] We now come to the rumors regarding the intention to issue new Iraqi currency. Talk of this is being circulated by average Iraqis. There is a saying which says that the residents of Mecca are the best authority on its mountain passes. Likewise, you are the best authority on the Iraqi dinar and Iraqi currency. Is there an intention to issue new Iraqi banknotes? I mean, large banknotes, such as 100-dinar banknotes and 1,000-dinar banknotes, as is being circulated by average Iraqis?

[Al-Takmaji] One thousand-dinar banknotes?

[Al-Farhan] Yes, this is being rumored.

[Al-Takmaji] No, there is no intention to issue such large dinar banknotes. You are well aware that the 100-dinar banknotes were withdrawn from circulation when they were deemed unnecessary. This took place on 8 June 1992. At present, there is no intention whatsoever to issue large dinar banknotes. It seems to me that rumors are linked to one another. The rumors being circulated to the effect that the monetary authorities intend to issue large dinar

banknotes are inextricably linked to previous rumors. Certainly, these rumors are unfounded and baseless.

[Al-Farhan] By the way, is the 50-dinar banknote still in circulation and deemed legal? Does it have normal coverage?

[Al-Takmaji] The 50-dinar banknote was issued in accordance with the law. Certainly, it is still deemed legal currency, exactly as the 10-dinar, 25-dinar, and 5-dinar banknotes.

[Al-Farhan] Is there an intention to devalue the dinar; that is, to reduce the exchange rate of the dinar? This is also another rumor being circulated among citizens.

[Al-Takmaji] Not at all. This is because a change in the exchange rate of the dinar is deemed inconceivable under the circumstances of the unfair embargo being experienced by our country at present. There is no intention at all to change the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar. That is, its equivalents in foreign currency will remain unchanged under the current circumstances. With respect to devaluing the dinar—I understand from what you have said that you are referring to a change in the exchange rate of the dinar, and also to its purchasing power—circumstances forced a decline in the purchasing power of the Iraqi dinar....

[Al-Farhan, interrupting] Because of the lack of revenues.

[Al-Takmaji] Exactly, because of the lack of foreign currency revenues, normally earned by Iraq's exports. But, when the current circumstances change and the unfair embargo imposed on our country is lifted, the dinar is bound to recuperate, because it is based on a strong economy, and also on basic economic factors. When this happens, the dinar will recuperate and gradually reclaim its official exchange rate. Hence, I would explicitly answer your question by saying that there is no intention at all to change the exchange rate of the dinar.

[Al-Farhan] Then, you are categorically denying the host of rumors circulated by average Iraqis, as we have addressed them.

[Al-Takmaji] That is true. Mr. Dawud, you are aware that at present, various rumors are being circulated about currency, the economy in general, and other sectors. When the doors of rumors are closed before the enemy, it seeks to open other doors for circulating rumors. It is only natural that the rumors are targeting the money in the citizens' hands, which is usually a sensitive issue.

[Al-Farhan] That is true. We thank Mr. Tariq al-Takmaji, governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, for this interview.

[Al-Takmaji] You are welcome.

[Al-Farhan] We hope that the Iraqi economy will remain in good shape, that Iraqi banks will remain healthy, and that the Iraqi currency will remain as lofty as this homeland. Thanks.

Prime Minister Chairs Meeting on Wheat, Barley
JN1702144293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has presided over a meeting of the ministerial committee assigned the task of implementing the instructions leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, gave the agricultural sector when he chaired a cabinet meeting on 6 February.

During their meeting, the conferees discussed means of securing the requirements needed to render this season's wheat and barley harvest a success. They also discussed a working paper submitted by the agriculture and irrigation minister in this regard.

It was also decided during the meeting to form a subcommittee chaired by the agriculture and irrigation minister. This subcommittee has been assigned the task of preparing a field study to determine the Iraqi governorates' requirements for agricultural machinery and tools needed to render this season's harvest a success.

Furthermore, the conferees decided to hold a central meeting in Baghdad, to be attended by officials in charge of harvest operations in the governorates. The date of this meeting, which will discuss means of rendering this campaign a success, will be determined later.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of finance, agriculture and irrigation, transport and communications, oil, and interior; the governor of the Central Bank of Iraq; Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, adviser at the Presidential Office; chief of the General Federation of Peasants Cooperative Societies; director general of the General Mechanical Industries Company; a representative from the Ministry of Trade; and a representative of the Prime Ministry's Secretariat.

Airspace Violations Protested to Arab League
JN1702124293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, violated Iraqi airspace on Sunday [14 February], thus posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League noted that on that day the U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from these bases, carried out 66 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi Arab League representative requested that this letter be circulated among the Arab League members so that they may be aware of these regrettable incidents. A detailed list of these violations was enclosed with the letter.

*** Jalabi on Transformation of Iraqi Opposition**
93AE0323A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
23, 24, 25 Jan 93

[Three-part article by Hasan al-Jalabi, Head of Constitutional Committee of National Iraqi Congress: "Transformation of Iraqi Opposition Into Comprehensive National Entity; Lessons of Uprising and of Beirut Conference Up to Vienna Conference]

[23 Jan p 17]

[Text] I don't know what it is that a few in the opposition ranks—a few who rely on slander in dealing with the entity created by the Iraqi opposition—are wagering on in their slander and instigation. What results and consequences do these few expect now that the congress includes in its ranks nearly 90 percent of the opposition forces, beginning with the insurgents in Iraq's southern marshes, the Kurdistan Front of Iraq, the Islamic movement, embodied in the Iraqi Islamic Revolution Higher Council, and ending with democrats, leftists, and numerous nationalists, plus independents.

Therefore, let those slandering and defaming permit us to urge them to desist from the political action methods to which they have become accustomed and to move hand in hand under the canopy of this uniting and promising edifice to accomplish the greater objective and desired hope of liberation and change in order to build the future Iraq.

Truly, the Unified National Iraqi Congress constitutes a qualitative leap in the Iraqi opposition: From division and dispersal to coming together and unity; from loss and aimlessness to finding the identity and the path; from walking in a dark tunnel to marching toward the major goals and objectives along a clearcut path; and from paralysis and absence to presence, movement, and serious action.

But isn't it right to learn how all this has been accomplished and how this leap has been achieved? The opposition has turned into the object of trust, has revived some hope, and is capable of completing the march and accomplishing the change and the liberation, but only if it understands itself, comprehends the changes of the age and keeps up pace with its developments, if it frees itself from the captivity of obsolete concepts and slogans, and if it listens carefully to the people's appeals and cries.

Lest we backtrack too far into the Iraqi opposition's past and preoccupy the reader with the details of its long history, we will begin with the opposition's recent history. Throughout the eight years of the Iraq-Iran war, Iraqi opposition continued to be absent from the Iraqi, regional, and international political theater. It was scattered internally and in exile and it had no heard opinion on Iraq's issues, which have preoccupied and continue to preoccupy the world. It was unable to participate in any serious resolution adopted in connection with Iraq despite the great opportunities for such participation, as in the case of

resolution 598, which the Security Council issued in the summer of 1987 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

It would have been possible for the Iraqi people, embodied in the opposition, to have their say on this resolution if the opposition had been able to contribute to controlling the courses of the war and if it had had a presence in this war. But nothing of the sort happened and the war came to a halt without taking into account any of the Iraqi people's rights to confront Saddam and to make him the primary victim of that aggressive war.

When this opposition wished to ponder its condition and to examine its future in the wake of that war, it was consumed by disputes over who represents whom, what percentage and share should each faction have in the organizations, and what each faction's voting rights are. It was as if the opposition had already moved to Baghdad and as if Iraq had been freed of Saddam and his regime. Meanwhile, duty required that thought be given to Iraq's conditions in the wake of that futile and devastating war, which served the interests of the United States and the Western in the region.

For quite sometime, the opposition continued to chase its tail, not looking for a plan to get rid of and eliminate oppression but for solutions to its representation and voting problems until Saddam surprised the world by invading Kuwait on 2 August 1990. Despite its awareness of the tremor this invasion caused in the region and of its consequences to various parts of the world, the opposition was unable to gather and unite its ranks.

The opposition imagined that it had established the proper organization for its ranks and leadership when it had the opportunity at the end of December 1990 to agree on the so-called Joint Action Committee, which was founded on great disparity in representation shares and voting rights.

It also imagined that it had made an accomplishment that couldn't be surpassed when it held its first conference in Beirut in March 1991 after defeats had been inflicted on Saddam and his regime, when the Security Council convened to lay down the conditions for the surrender of the defeated, and when a tempestuous uprising had erupted in the south, the north, and some central parts against Baghdad's tyrant.

The conference was held only to be turned into a festival of speeches, photographs, lights, and of oblivion to the martyrs and sacrifices made on Iraq's plains, valleys, and mountain peaks for the sake of release, liberation, and deliverance. This oblivion was tantamount to oblivion to the discussions and debates that were taking place at the Security Council to tie and shackle Iraq with the resolutions and measures dictating its surrender.

The opposition, and especially the uprising, would have had an opportunity to have a place and to be taken into account in these resolutions and measures if only it had a leadership capable of exploiting opportunities, of controlling the means and methods leading to recognizing the rights of the uprising and the opposition, and of representing the opposition before the UN organizations and

decisionmakers. It would have been possible to mark out in those resolutions lines separating the uprising areas and Saddam's forces, thus protecting the insurgents from his brutal suppression.

Despite these lost opportunities and even though the opposition was aware of its inability, paralysis, and absence from the political theater, it continued to run in place and to chase its tail. This condition was reflected in more than one endeavor and attempted to correct things and proceeded toward serious and effective action that fills the void. Meetings and symposiums were conducted at times in Damascus, at times in Cairo, and at other times in London to deal with the condition to which the opposition action had deteriorated. But no success was achieved in all those meetings and symposiums, whether the ones held by the Joint Action Committee in Damascus and London or those that were held by Iraqi and Arab intellectuals and political organizations and associations.

What paralyzed the opposition even more, complicated its activity, and worsened its condition is the fact that the brother Kurds distanced themselves from it through the negotiations that they held with the regime for a time in the spring and summer of 1991. Perhaps the biggest reason pushing these brothers to those miserable negotiations was despair over the ability of the opposition, while in that condition, to do anything to help them rid themselves of the ordeal that had afflicted them and all parts of Iraq in wake of the events that developed in the mother of all defeats, the collapse of the uprising, and the booty [al-Anfal] battles.

It is truly surprising that some international parties, rather than the Iraqi opposition, moved to confront the brutal oppression unleashed by Saddam Husayn who had proceeded to annihilate and burn the rebels and insurgents, destroying their homes and lands. Those parties took a stand and got the Security Council to issue Resolution 688, which is unprecedented in its provisions that condemn the oppression and call for dialogue between the regime and the citizens to ensure that human rights are observed, especially political rights. The provisions also call for establishing democracy in Iraq.

Thus, the said resolution accomplished some of what the opposition should have accomplished in the cease-fire resolutions with Saddam's regime if it had exploited the available opportunities and taken control of the Iraqi people's cause vis-a-vis Saddam. Thus, efforts were launched to establish a "safe environment" in Iraqi Kurdistan while the opposition was preoccupied with its disputes over percentages and the venue and time of the meeting that it was planning to hold to repair what had happened at the Beirut conference.

At this juncture, a faction of the Iraqi opposition became alert to the perils engulfing the Iraqi people's cause. It realized how these perils would obliterate, even cancel, this cause if they persisted and if they weren't tackled in a serious and successful manner to restore to the opposition itself the awareness that had been usurped by regional and international wills and to link us to the country's urgent

issues and strong needs for liberation and change. It is evident that such a task requires a great deal of courage, valor, daring, perseverance, and endurance, not to mention a proper understanding of the domestic, regional, and international elements influencing the Iraqi arena—an understanding needed to deal with these elements appropriately and to employ them to bring the hour of salvation and deliverance closer. This required serious pioneer action to observe Iraq's political, military, and economic conditions in wake of the defeat, to explore the regional and international horizons, and to unite the opposition ranks with the aim of employing the available capabilities and resources to develop a plan capable of confronting and toppling the regime.

Those who became alert to these necessities and tasks found that first and foremost, efforts had to be made to transform the Iraqi opposition at home and abroad into a national liberation movement or into a resistance movement and to lead it away from the narcissism of parties that numbered in the dozens, each having no more than 10 or 20 members in most cases. This had to be done so the struggle would be organized within a comprehensive national entity that possesses the political, military, and organizational capabilities and the independence necessary to accomplish the tasks of liberation and change.

On the basis of these starting points and under these slogans, the call to hold the Vienna conference was issued. Initially, the call was subjected to objections and condemnations from here and there, one time on the pretext that there was no need for an urgent conference, another time on the pretext that the conference had to be held in a neighboring country in the region, and a third time on the pretext that the conference tasks had to be confined to advisory studies concerning the condition of the Iraqi opposition in Europe. But the need to correct the course and to accept the dictates of the national and struggle duty was felt more strongly by the Iraqis. This need was stronger than the objections and the condemnations and so the Iraqis rallied to this conference despite the objection of the objectors and the criticism of the critics. The conference was held on schedule in Vienna at the end of June 1992. At this conference, it became possible to draft programs to energize the Iraqi opposition and to lead its steps toward implementation. New tendencies emerged in the conference rhetoric, in the principles adopted for the opposition action, and in the organizations the opposition established and the plans it embraced. Perhaps the most important accomplishment made by the National Iraqi Congress that was convened in Vienna is embodied in establishing the base with which it is possible to confront Saddam and his regime and to topple this regime and rid the country of its evils—a base embodied in transforming the opposition into a resistance movement capable of wresting power from Saddam in the various spheres.

The aforementioned base consists of two mainstays: 1) regional government of Iraqi Kurdistan and the National Iraqi Congress. With their unity and communication, a material base can be made available to the new entity—a base comprised of the provinces liberated from Saddam's

regime in the Iraqi Kurdistan, amounting to 75,000 square km, plus whatever other parts of Iraq can be liberated from this regime at any time. This is in addition to a human base that consists of Iraqi citizens who live in the liberated areas and in exile and who number no less than 4 million citizens at present. The number could increase in the future with the population of whatever Iraqi districts are liberated from Saddam's regime. A political base can also be made available through unity between the elected government of Iraqi Kurdistan as a regional authority and the congress in its capacity as a central authority.

Thus, the National Iraqi Congress managed to transform Iraqi opposition into a national liberation movement or a resistance movement that can have a geographic, human, and political entity that will confront the presence of Saddam and his regime in power with the various means until he is toppled. The abovementioned method of change and liberation in Iraq is actually a new method with which the Iraqis are not familiar, considering that all changes leading to the overthrow of regimes and governments from 1932 to 1968 were made with force by way of the so-called palace and government coup. Old rulers were removed suddenly from power with direct military force and new rulers assumed the reins of power. But the new method for replacing the current regime in Baghdad relies on wresting power from the regime gradually and in phases by letting the leadership of the people and of the armed forces rebel against the regime to topple and destroy it. Such a method of government change can start at the extremities and extend until it reaches the center whereas a palace and government coup can only emanate and proceed from the center of power.

[24 Jan p 13]

[Text] In light of the above, we must understand, on the one hand, how Iraqi Kurdistan and whatever liberated parts of southern Iraq, and other parts, can constitute a launching base to topple Saddam's regime. We can also understand, on the other hand, how the government into which the unified National Iraqi Congress could be converted would be a real government and not just a government in exile, as many people concerned with this issue think. This is because the center of activities of the bodies of the said congress is inside Iraq and on Iraqi soil, as already noted—a fact that permits viewing the congress organizations as an actual government. A government in exile operates from outside the country to which it belongs, and this is what dictates calling it by this name.

It was the duty of those who participated in the Vienna conference to understand the importance of absence of the factions that did not participate because the nonparticipants are fundamental forces in the Iraqi opposition. Therefore, and inspired by this viewpoint and appreciation, the congress considered the said factions part of its membership and underlined its openness to any formula that would ensure their participation. This tendency met with a sincere wish on the part of the factions that had not participated in the conference to eliminate the causes and barriers, which had prevented them from participating.

and this is what has been done. After contacts and consultations, brother Mas'ud Barzani visited Damascus last August and met with President Hafez al-Asad. At that meeting, he gained al-Asad's approval to launch an initiative in accordance with which the Salah-al-Din conference was held in Shaqlawah last September among the various Iraqi opposition factions and forces to expand the scope of the National Iraqi Congress and to enable it to encompass all the Iraqi opposition factions and forces. To underline this meaning, the word "unified" was added to the congress' name.

At this conference, it was agreed to increase the number of members of the Iraqi National Assembly by electing into it new members representing the factions that had not participated in the Vienna conference, by restructuring the Executive Council, and by holding a plenary session of the National Assembly. This session met at the end of last October in Salah-al-Din, Irbil, Iraq. Thanks to this meeting, the National Assembly was able to pass the basic constitution for the Unified National Iraqi Congress and to form a leadership council and an executive council in accordance with this constitution.

Thus, the Unified National Iraqi Congress has been able to expand and to encompass at least 90 percent of the opposition, as already noted, and to gain a broad geographic base inside Iraq, thanks to the participation of the brother Kurds and their becoming a main part of the congress. This has enabled the congress to move on Iraq's soil and to proceed with its activities toward the greater objectives of liberating Iraq and replacing the regime.

With this geographic, human, and political base, which consists of the regional government of Kurdistan and the congress' central organizations, the Iraqi opposition has turned from just parties and fragmented factions, mostly powerless, into a national resistance movement capable of leading the Iraqi people to a tremendous uprising or to a revolution that topples Saddam and his regime.

The abovementioned accomplishments clarify the main differences and the separating lines between the Iraqi opposition's condition prior to and after the congress. They also answer the questions that were raised inside and outside the opposition on the congress' identity, which had been difficult to define. One heard at times that the congress was the "broader opposition party" or that it was a front or an alliance of parties, and so forth. The reason for this vague vision is that this congress constitutes a new approach with which Iraqis are not familiar. Since the state was established, Iraqi opposition activity had been undertaken by political parties and groups in accordance with programs that opposed the regime's policies and for whose adoption all peaceful means were used. When those parties and groups sought to replace policies or the regime by force, they turned into underground organizations and cells operating from dens and tunnels connected with this or that group or this or that part of the armed forces to bring about the desired change through the so-called palace coup.

As for the congress, it is tantamount to open resistance or a movement opposing Saddam's regime and operating from Iraqi soil liberated from his reign, defying his rule, and confronting him with the objective of toppling and destroying him. With this accomplishment in the Iraqi opposition ranks, Iraq enters into what is known in political jurisprudence as "dual government," which means the presence of two organizational or governmental entities in a single country and homeland, each opposing the other and fighting it with the various means for the sake of the aforementioned objective.

By its nature, this conflict leads to raising the question of recognition because each entity needs it direly. The new and rebellious entity needs it to destroy the old and to replace it domestically, regionally, and internationally and the old wants to maintain its recognition in order to plant its feet firmly and fight the entity that is rebelling in its face.

This is why visits by National Iraqi Congress delegations to the United States and some other countries gained special importance. They opened the door for agreeing to dealings between international parties and the Iraqi opposition on issues concerning Iraq's present and future and concerning a number of other urgent Iraqi matters, such as establishing a safe zone in Iraq south of parallel 32.

The significance and dimensions of these visits are different from those of visits made by individual opposition members to this or that official in the countries concerned. These are private personal contacts. In case it is agreed to deal with these individuals, this agreement does not mean that they are Iraqi opposition spokesmen capable of taking positions that result in legal or diplomatic consequences. The most that such personal contacts can do is embodied in the exchange of information and opinions. Perhaps the contents of the official declarations and statements made by the countries visited by the congress delegations prove the soundness of the above. The said statements and declarations made it clear how, first, the congress delegations were received officially and, secondly, how the party on whose behalf the delegations spoke is considered a base of Iraqi opposition in the receiving countries. This is a difference that has escaped the comprehension of those who don't wish to notice the difference between the two abovementioned conditions.

Iraqi Kurdistan and Opposition

One of the most important knots that the congress was able to untie in Vienna was the relationship of the Kurdish brothers with the opposition. This knot was due to the difficulty of understanding the special nature of the Kurdish issue in the country and in the government in the past and at present.

The brother Kurds have a firm geographic base and a human and political base, which enable them to confront Baghdad's tyrannical and oppressive regime. They also have special national and ethnic characteristics that have been denied and suppressed by the central government. Consequently, they have had legitimate aspirations to be

liberated from the grip and oppression of this regime without seceding from Iraq as a homeland and people. They have also been able to develop a leadership that has attained a level of awareness, organization, and unity that gives it distinction within the Iraqi opposition ranks. This is something the opposition has not properly understood and this led to continued troubled relations with this leadership. These relations reached the point of estrangement, as happened in wake of the frustrations of the uprising of the spring of 1991 when the Kurds held negotiations with Saddam. This condition of trouble and disagreement continued until elections were held in the province of Iraqi Kurdistan in May 1992 and when the elected regional Kurdistan government was established. The Vienna conference was held nearly two months after those elections.

At that conference, all negative and positive aspects and intricacies of the relationship of the brother Kurds with Iraq as a homeland and a government were raised. The conference was magnanimous enough to examine them objectively and with a scientific approach that kept up pace with the developments of the age and their impact on the issues of liberation, freedom, and human rights. As a result of that diverse discussion, two tendencies prevailed in the conference: One calling for maintaining things as they were so Kurds would have in the government nothing more than a decentralized administration, which they called self-rule. The other tendency contrasted with the first one and called for releasing the freedom of Kurds to determine their future in their capacity as a people who are entitled to this right in accordance with the laws and rules of the age.

Amidst raging disagreement between these two tendencies, a third tendency emerged, and triumphed ultimately. It sympathized with the profound feelings of bitterness, oppression, and persecution experienced by the brother Kurds as a consequence of the terrible suppression and oppression campaigns that have been launched and continue to be launched against them by Baghdad's regime, especially on the hands of Saddam. The conference approved the freedom of the brother Kurds to determine their future as a genuine natural right to which they are entitled by the dictates of the natural law of peoples, the UN charter, and human rights proclamations and covenants, and not as a grant from anybody. It was stipulated that this freedom would, with the approval of the Kurdish people in Iraq, be restricted by the condition of nonsecession out of appreciation of the grave perils secession would pose to their entity and future and because of the vital bonds and ties that bind them to Iraq.

Because tendency combined freedom with unity, the congress could not but approve it. So it approved the right of the Kurds to determine their future without secession and within the framework of the single Iraqi homeland. To reassure those who imagined that there is a contradiction between free self-determination and rejection of secession, we say: It is true that secession is a condition in which this

freedom may culminate. But in the stated formula, secession is unlikely because the brother Kurds agreed voluntarily at the Vienna conference to exclude it from the sphere of self-determination. A right could be restricted with the agreement of the party who is entitled to it or by law. On the basis of the right of the people of the Iraqi Kurdistan to the aforementioned self-determination, the National Assembly of Iraqi Kurdistan adopted on 4 October 1992 a resolution opting for federalism as a system for regulating the brother Kurds' relations with the Iraqi Government. At this juncture, neighboring countries and some Iraqi opposition factions clamored endlessly, one time on the pretext of fear that this would be a prelude to partitioning Iraq, a second time on the pretext that this resolution was untimely, and a third time on the pretext that this would pose a threat to the region's stability and would harm relations with the neighboring countries. This clamor had far-reaching reverberations and impact on the conference, which convened in Salah-al-Din, Irbil, in Iraq, a few weeks after the resolution was announced.

At the Salah-al-Din conference, all aspects, ramifications, and dimensions of the issue were discussed. After lengthy debates, the conference emerged with a resolution calling for respecting the opinion of the brother Kurds, represented by the national assembly, and their choice of federalism, based on provinces [wilayat] in the Islamic system, as a system for coexistence with the other factions in the Iraqi homeland, provided that the constitutional steps and procedures required by this resolution are adopted after Saddam's regime is toppled so the Iraqi people's opinion on federalism as a basis for the future State of Iraq can be taken.

[25 Jan p 13]

[Text] Despite the narrow space available for this article to correct mistakes that have distorted the vision and concept of federalism in the minds of many people who, by the way, have proceeded to examine and criticize this concept, obliterating its features and causing the mind to lose track of its identity and content—despite this, we cannot fail to note some issues that have engulfed this question. We do not know what gives rise to the fear that federalism in itself will be cause for partitioning Iraq! The entire history of federalism shows that it has been a framework uniting peoples, ethnicities, and groups and not an instrument of division and fragmentation. This has been the case with federalism in countries that produced it to the world more than 200 years ago. After division and disunity, the United States found in federalism the ideal instrument to achieve reconciliation and understanding between the advocates of secession and the advocates of unity because federalism was able to offer strong and firm bases for establishing a strong and impregnable central authority while ensuring the freedom of every state to determine its own affairs. This provided the opportunity for stability, progress, and immense power and gave rise to a nation that is nowadays the world's strongest power.

This has also been the case with federalism in Switzerland which, after the United States, embraced it in the middle

of the 19th century. Here, we find that federalism has united Switzerland's French, German, Italian, and other citizens and developed harmony among them. This population had gone through centuries of feuds, warring, hostility, division, and unrest until Switzerland discovered federalism and established it in its 1848 constitution as a compromise solution to its problems. Since then, Switzerland has been cited as a model of unity, stability, impregnability, and progress. It has also been the same in Germany. In the 1870s, Germany discovered in federalism a means toward unity, strength, and power after centuries of division and internecine war among its ministates. A researcher of German affairs must not disregard the significance of Germany's return to federalism in its greater current union, which incorporates what used to be known as East Germany and West Germany after all the disintegration and fragmentation that developed in the wake of World War II and persisted until the new union was established in 1990.

We do not wish to cite other examples so that detail will not distract us from the dictates of brevity. However, we must note that federalism is not responsible for the fragmentation of the ex-Soviet Union into this large number of eastern and western states, the fragmentation of Yugoslavia into five republics, to date, and the breakup of Czechoslovakia. Rather, this fragmentation is a consequence of the oppression and domination exercised to such a degree by central governments against peoples who were destined to live under their control that those governments nearly destroyed the federal system.

It is thus evident from the truth and history that federalism brings together and doesn't divide and that it unites and doesn't fragment; that oppression, suppression, and violence exercised by the center against the extremities does all this and more. If the brother Kurds in Iraq want federalism to exercise their right to self-determination, they want it primarily to act as their savior from the center's domination, oppression, and tyranny that have spread from Saddam's dens in Baghdad to all parts of Iraq. As for the neighbors' fear of the call for federalism in Iraq, it is most likely that it is caused not so much by fear for Iraq's unity and territorial integrity as by fear that federalism will proliferate to the territories of these neighbors.

As for timing, it is undoubtedly subject to the viewpoint that federalism is a contract and a constitution, which must be approved by the parties concerned. Therefore, for federalism to become a valid system in Iraq, the other parties, besides the Kurdish brothers, have to approve this contract or constitution. However, adaptation of the content and structure of federalism, in its sense as a contract, entails two fundamental things: First, a contract is an act of consent between two or more balanced and equal parties, regardless of whether each is big or small in numbers. This means that federalism cannot be rejected or accepted through a general vote but through the consensual democracy that the United States experienced between 1787 and 1789. At the time, the big states did not impose federalism on the smaller ones. Rather, federalism was established and became valid with the approval of all those

states, both big and small. Second, if federalism is rejected by the non-Kurdish Iraqi parties, then another formula acceptable to these brothers must be sought because no coexistence formula may be imposed on them in tomorrow's Iraq. Such an Iraq can materialize only on the basis of a new political contract that is accepted by all the parties involved without the minority's suppression of the majority. This is the meaning of a contract and this is its structure and purpose.

But at this hour, Iraq is in no lesser need of federalism than the future Iraq. This is because with its current entity that has been built with the blood and arms of its sons and that enjoys international protection, the Iraqi Kurdistan needs to be Iraqized. What is meant is that it should be a province with guaranteed autonomy within a provisional Iraqi government that acts as an alternative to Saddam's government in Baghdad and that speaks in the name of this province and of all other parts of Iraq in the regional and international lobbies. If this is not accomplished, this entity will be exposed to one of a number of serious future possibilities that are rejected by the brother Kurds themselves. The first possibility is a return to Saddam's rule, the second is the creation of an independent Kurdish state, and the third is breaking away from Iraq and joining one of the neighboring countries because the current condition cannot go on forever.

Here emerges the importance of unity between the province of Kurdistan and the Unified National Iraqi Congress and of transforming this union into a federal government with an actual transitional character. With such transformation, the dangers and ramifications of these possibilities, which are devastating to Iraq's future, can be obviated.

Thus, it becomes obvious how federalism is necessary to bind the congress and the Iraqi Kurdistan in serious legitimate action, how it balances the central powers with the powers of the extremities in a manner that prevents one from overwhelming the other, and how it is necessary to end the center's dictatorship, domination, and oppression of the country's extremities. It also becomes obvious how federalism cannot be withheld from Iraqi Kurdistan in an age in which self-determination has become a fundamental right of peoples, thus leading to the rise of more than 20 new independent states in less than one year.

There is no doubt that the congress' arrival in part of Iraq's territory and its ability to convene there and to show up on this territory as a force opposing and confronting Saddam's regime, as happened in Salah-al-Din at the end of October 1992, entitles the congress to be not just a national resistance movement but also a governmental organization domestically and internationally because it has become capable of settling on its country's soil now that the Kurdistan Front of Iraq and the government of this front have become a main part of this congress. This provides a geographic and human base for the governmental organization to which the congress aspires. The political base for this organization is embodied in the leadership structures, which the congress managed to set up at the Vienna

conference and then the Salah-al-Din conference, and that consist of the Iraqi National Assembly, the Presidential Council, and the Executive Council.

It has been necessary to establish for the work of the congress a constitution that acts as a temporary constitution that charts the path for establishing the congress organizations, spelling out their powers and organizing their structure and their relations, especially relations with the regional government of the Iraqi Kurdistan. This has dictated embracing the federal solution to reconcile and harmonize the powers of this government with the powers of the congress. Only with federalism can unity be established between the congress and the government of Iraqi Kurdistan, as already noted, thus establishing respect for the jurisdiction and powers of the regional government of Iraqi Kurdistan and enabling the congress to exercise its powers effectively and legitimately within the scope of its jurisdiction, which is confined to Iraq's central affairs, without oppressing or encroaching upon the regional government's powers.

It is evident from the above that presence of the congress and its leaders in the Iraqi Kurdistan or in any other liberated Iraqi territory is an essential and fundamental condition to achieve legitimacy for the congress and to make its action effective. The above also makes it evident that the congress should not act from outside Iraq, except under special and uncontrollable circumstances and [only] on issues such as foreign affairs.

The alliance and unity achieved between the congress and the Kurdistan Front of Iraq has created, as already noted, a geographic, human, and political base for the congress. This made it possible to translate this unity in the international aspect of the opposition's action, embodied in the congress, to employ this action in the international lobbies, and to transform it into effective positions and measures intended to protect Iraqi citizens from Saddam's tyranny. The air ban imposed last August in the south against Saddam's air force wasn't the lease of those measures. This ban was achieved with the participation of the congress delegation, which visited Washington officially and met with officials there just weeks before the said ban was established.

Perhaps the ongoing UN efforts, which seek to involve the congress in providing aid to the Iraqi people, are another proof of the congress' success in linking the international

and regional developments concerning Iraq and its people with the Iraqi opposition. The congress' entry into Iraq and its success in working from Iraqi territory, in unison with the Iraqi province of Kurdistan, against Saddam's regime for the purpose of toppling this regime has led to the emergence of a condition, which is called in political jurisprudence "dual government," as already noted. This condition means the presence of two governments vying for control of power: One embodied in the current regime, i.e., Saddam's government, and the other in the new regime emanating from the unity of the Unified National Iraqi Congress with the Kurdistan Front of Iraq. This condition urges international parties to choose between maintaining their dealings with the old and current regime and abandoning these dealings to turn to dealing with the new regime that has risen in rebellion against the old one.

Gaining regional and international acceptance to deal with the congress in its capacity as the regime seeking to wrest power from Saddam's regime is a most serious and vital issue encountering the congress. The congress legitimacy and its right to be recognized are not at all diminished by its presence in Iraqi territory protected by international forces (the ever-ready hammer) and by the Iraqi Kurdistan Forces (the Peshmerga). This is because this protection emanates from the well-known UN Resolution 688, which was issued by the Security Council. This is the first resolution of its kind to make a firm distinction between the Iraqi people and Saddam's regime by giving the Iraqi people a presence distinguished from Baghdad's regime, by recognizing an independent international identity for the people in order to protect the Iraqi citizen's human rights from the regime's tyranny and oppression, and by urging that this regime be replaced with democratic methods and in a way that ensures the Iraqi citizen's rights.

To those who lament Iraq's sovereignty because of the aforementioned resolution, we say: Take it easy, oh ye who bemoan. Man and his rights have now become more important than any sovereignty and more sacred than any power. Else, there would be no way to rescue the Iraqi citizen from the tribulation and ordeal with which Baghdad's tyrant has afflicted him. Sovereignty is meaningless and has no legitimate purpose and acceptable function if it is not designated to serve mankind and people, both individuals and groups. This is indicated by a reading of the UN principles and objectives and by the restrictions imposed on the power of rulers, especially the restriction noted in Article 2, Paragraph 7.

Peres Tells Congress U.S. Aid 'Reduced' by Inflation*TA1802054193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Feb 93*

[Text] In Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meetings with congressmen in Washington he was told that the scope of the aid to Israel causes a problem with U.S. public opinion. Israeli sources told our Washington correspondent Arye Golan that the appeal to Peres had a moral tone and stressed America's economic situation. Minister Peres explained to the congressmen that the aid has in fact been reduced due to U.S. inflation and the increased cost of weaponry Israel receives from the United States.

Calls for Action Against Terrorists*TA1702211693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said tonight in Washington that Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri spoke about his country's sovereignty in order to berate Israel. Foreign Minister Peres called on Lebanon to demonstrate its sovereignty by acting against the terrorist organizations.

Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that these statements by Foreign Minister Peres, which were made during meetings he held at Congress, came in reaction to the Hizballah attempts to carry out terrorist attacks in the security zone and to the Israeli Air Force raids in south Lebanon.

Reaction to Upcoming Christopher Visit Reported**Rabinovich Comments on Trip***TA1802091393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Mar 93*

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States, in Washington by Goni Mardor and Ya'akov Eylon in the studio—live]

[Text] [Mardor] Is Warren Christopher's Middle East visit, which starts today, aimed at exerting pressures under the guise of a fact-finding tour?

[Rabinovich] Definitely not. That has not been said, and that is not expected to be the case. The visit is aimed at studying the situation close up, but it is also, I believe, meant to be an initial effort to study ideas. A briefing was given today by what was called a senior administration source aimed at lowering expectations, so he spoke mainly about the facts. It is natural, however, on the eve of such a trip for the secretary and those around him to try to lower rather than raise expectations.

[Eylon] The same senior source said that the United States will also study the extent of its future involvement in the process. Can a situation develop in which the Americans pull back from their extensive involvement in the process?

[Rabinovich] They are referring to the scope. I believe two things are involved here. First, I believe that the person who gave the briefing wanted to say that the President has the final say. In other words, the secretary of state is leaving for the region, but it can be understood that on his return he will report to the President, who is the one to decide. Second, there is a real attempt here to throw the ball into the court of the sides to the negotiations, and I stress, the sides, and not just one side. In other words, the message to the participants in the process is that by your response you will to a large extent decide U.S. readiness to invest or participate in the process.

[Mardor] You said that there are lower expectations or an attempt to lower expectations. Nevertheless, we are hearing here that Israel wants the United States to mediate between it and Syria. Is that also a Syrian wish?

[Rabinovich] First, Syria wants to build a system of relations with the new U.S. administration. The Syrians understand that that involves participating in the peace process, as well as holding a dialogue with the United States on that process. We Israelis also realize that to reach an agreement with Syria there will have to be an American role. What concerns us is that, while maintaining a dialogue with Syria, the United States must not be dragged into making concessions to Syria. That has happened on various occasions in the past. We have no special reason to believe that it must happen again now, but what we are making clear to the administration is that, while we understand that it is preferable for the United States to talk with Syria, it should do so with open eyes.

[Eylon] I suppose that Washington is doing its homework and the Christopher visit is part of that process, but perhaps Israel should also do its homework. The question to you, as our man in Washington, is: What are we offering the new administration to create a new momentum?

[Rabinovich] First, the administration is new, but the team dealing with the peace process is mainly made up of veterans, and the administration's learning curve on the negotiations does not have to be long. We have already dispatched to Washington three top participants in the talks with the Palestinians to hold a dialogue with the technical, operational echelons in the administration. The foreign minister is currently here. When the secretary of state and his entourage arrive in Israel and meet with the heads of our government—he is coming for a relatively long visit...

[Eylon, interrupting] What I am trying to understand is what they are hearing from us in all those meetings.

[Rabinovich] They have only begun to hear. The secretary's visit to Israel has not started yet, and the prime minister is expected to meet with the President in March. Therefore, it is premature to say what they will hear since most of the meetings have not been held yet.

[Mardor] Are there any Israeli gestures on the horizon?

[Rabinovich] I do not think there are any gestures, but on the other hand, the deportee issue was resolved in an

atmosphere of U.S.-Israeli understanding. There were no diversions from that understanding, and when imagination and flexibility were called for by Israel, it came forth, and I believe it had a very positive effect on the relations, which are drawing closer.

Beilin on U.S. Involvement

TA1702184893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] We expect Secretary of State Christopher to show at least the same degree of involvement in the peace process as his predecessor, James Baker. This statement was made today by Deputy Foreign Secretary Yosi Beilin prior to Warren Christopher's visit to Israel. Beilin estimated that it would not be possible to reach peace agreements in the Middle East without U.S. involvement. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports.

[Gutman] Secretary of State Warren Christopher will land in Israel Monday [22 February] afternoon. During his stay here he will meet the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister. Christopher also will meet in Jerusalem with the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks and will tour the country. Jerusalem is not pinning great expectations on Christopher's trip to Israel. This is an exploratory visit. The new secretary of state does not intend to bring invitations to the next round of talks. Nevertheless, on the eve of Christopher's visit, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin says that Israel expects active involvement on the part of Christopher in the peace process:

[Begin Beilin recording] I think U.S. involvement is crucial to the promotion of the peace process. I do not think it will be possible to actually sign peace agreements in the Middle East without U.S. involvement. On the other hand, I believe that U.S. pressure will achieve the opposite result and fail to contribute anything to the peace process. [end recording]

[Gutman] Mr. Beilin expects Christopher to be at least as actively involved in the process as his predecessor James Baker, who succeeded in convening the Madrid conference. As for the content of the meetings here, at this stage Israel does not intend to present Christopher with new proposals to promote the process. Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin does not feel that Israel has to make any goodwill gestures whatsoever to the Palestinians in order to guarantee their participation in the negotiations:

[Begin Beilin recording] I really am not convinced that such gestures are necessary in order to promote the peace process, and I think that everyone understands that such gestures are much harder to make when knife attacks are being carried out in Jerusalem at the same time. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 17 February, in a similar report, adds that "it is important for Israel to stress during Secretary Christopher's visit that the longest conflict since World War II can be solved, Yosi Beilin said. We believe the main forces in Israel and the Arab states are ready for a solution." The report goes on to

say that "Beilin hinted that he had mixed feelings about the decision to expel the 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Israel paid a heavy price in terms of its image, he said, and still it was not clear whether the move had hurt or helped Hamas in the long run." In conclusion, the report notes that "turning to the nuclear ambitions of Iran, Beilin said Iran is not an easy problem to deal with, but if the Arab-Israel conflict is settled, Iran will no longer be able to use it as an excuse for aggression."]

U.S. Pressure on Talks Foreseen

TA1802111193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Christopher's Travels"]

[Text] Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who today opens his first Middle East tour, has tried to lower the level of expectations by declaring that this time around he is bringing no initiatives and that his trip is mainly aimed at getting acquainted with local leaders.

Despite this declaration, however, American and Middle East commentators are unanimous in their assessment that the secretary of state has a clearly specified objective in mind: to bring about a resumption of the peace talks between Israel and Syria—with or without the Palestinians—as soon as possible.

To achieve this end, Christopher will exert great efforts during this visit to soften al-Asad's position. Christopher intends to recruit President Mubarak's aid for this, but beyond this the Americans expect Israel to them with gestures aimed at influencing the Syrian president.

It is possible that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is currently visiting Washington, has already made a down payment with his extraordinary declaration to the effect that the settlers will have to live under Arab rule. This is a far-reaching declaration, although it is does not necessarily contradict the government position. The point is that it had never been made public.

But what if this declaration is not deemed to suffice? The Americans, who are convinced that their mediation efforts are especially beneficial to Israel, could demand that we pay the next installment. It will be interesting to see what this payment will be.

Results of Visit Viewed

TA1802122593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "A Security Net"]

[Text] Warren Christopher, a veteran diplomat, knows that low expectations serve as a security net. On the one hand they minimize the media damage in case of failure, and on the other they make a success look all the more impressive. For this reason, on the eve of his first visit to the Middle East, Christopher is emphasizing that he is not expecting any practical results. He only wants to get

acquainted with the region's leaders and to hear what they have to say. On the basis of this he will decide what line of action to embrace.

Christopher and his aids reiterate that the deportees affair has not been struck off from the agenda. They say that there is no certainty that the Palestinians will accept the Security Council's verdict and agree to resume negotiations. They do not share the optimism emanating from Jerusalem regarding chances for resuming the talks with the Palestinians.

Despite everything, however, Washington hinges considerable hopes on this tour. The Clinton administration needs to score an immediate foreign policy victory to bolster its leadership position in the international arena. The State Department assesses that the Mideast channel has good prospects of success, contrary to the situation in Yugoslavia or the former Soviet Union.

The Americans are signaling to the media that their main hopes are currently directed toward the Syrians. Administration officials told commentators Evans and Novak that prospects with the Syrians are good because al-Asad is aging and wants to recover the Golan Heights before he dies. He also knows that unless he hurries the peace process could be derailed by the activities of Muslim fundamentalists.

The Americans also have something to offer the Syrians: for example, removing them from the list of countries that support terror.

The Clinton administration, however, is more interested in solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than in Syrian-Israeli peace. For this reason Christopher will devote most of his efforts to convincing both the Palestinians and Israel to moderate their present positions.

The U.S. team will tell the Palestinians that if they return to the talks the United States will become actively involved in negotiations between them and Israel, precisely as the

Palestinians are demanding. The Americans will also try to influence Israel to revise the autonomy plan. They will also give the Palestinians a sort of promise concerning the final form of the self-government and an unofficial guarantee by the Rabin government to stop the deportations, at least for the duration of the negotiations.

Christopher will apparently ask that Israel implement steps that would accord with the promises made to the Palestinians. Israel will apparently not be pressured in the deportees affair, although Christopher might ask Rabin to make a vague declaration to the effect that there will be no more deportations.

Prime Minister To Confer With Clinton 15 Mar

TA1802053893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500
GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is due to confer with President Bill Clinton on 15 March. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabin will leave for a U.S. tour in early March and he will launch a new missile boat of the Saar 5 class, built in the United States for the Israeli Navy.

In Israel, preparations continue for Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin called on the United States to step up its involvement in the political process but warned that pressure from Washington would bring the opposite result.

U.S. Citizens Remanded in Custody by Court

TA1702174793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705
GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Here is a report just in: The president of the Ramallah military court has remanded in custody the two U.S. citizens suspected of engaging in activities on behalf of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Salah's arrest has been extended by 16 days, while Muhammad Jum'a Hilmi Jarrad's arrest has been extended by 15 days.

University Students Protest Christopher Visit

JN1802102793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18-19 Feb 93 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Samir Barhum]

[Text] Amman—Hundreds of students demonstrated at the University of Jordan Wednesday [17 February] demanding that the Jordanian government withdraw from the Middle East peace talks and urging Arab countries to work on ending the plight of Palestinians expelled to south Lebanon by Israel.

Participants in the demonstration, which was organized by Islamic groups at the university, chanted slogans against U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East.

They also criticized "Israel's expansionist policies" and "the American continued support for the Jewish state," stressing that a holy war would liberate Palestine.

"With cannons and guns, we will destroy the Jews, and with a verse from the Holy Koran, we can destroy the Americans," they shouted, following the lead of a masked student using a loudspeaker.

The students, who call themselves the Islamic Trend at the University of Jordan, also voiced their support for the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, and expressed sympathy with the movement's leaders Ahmad Yassin, who remains jailed in Israel.

Issuing warnings to Mr. Christopher, they said Israel did not care for peace, and it only understood the language of force. "Christopher, go back home because we will not pay the price of our humiliation. (You should know) the Jews hear nothing but the voice of cannons," they chanted.

In their march which was limited to the university campus, the demonstrators reiterated that Islam was the only means to liberate Palestine, saying "a weak peace will not be the solution (to the Middle East problem)."

A statement issued by the demonstration's organizers and distributed to students on campus, said the U.S. has helped Israel in circumventing U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling on Israel to repatriate the 396 expellees immediately. This way, the statement said, the U.S. is encouraging Israel to continue exiling Palestinians.

"After destroying Iraq, slaying the Bosnian people, and liquidating the Palestinian cause in the name of international legitimacy, we have nothing to fear now, and the Security Council can do us no further harm," the statement said.

The Hamas movement, continued the statement, is the only qualified power to obstruct "the conspiracy of peace" because of its vision and ability to mobilize the public.

The statement also criticized Arab countries for their failure to help the Palestinian exiles, saying these countries deal with the issue as if it were an internal affair of a friendly state.

"Even worse, this position was expressed more than once by Bassam Abu Sharif (a senior Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) official) who said, 'The issue of the expellees is a secondary issue and will not obstruct the peace talks.'"

The statement urged the Jordanian government not to receive Mr. Christopher, and to withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks and mobilize the masses to be able to confront "The expansionist policies of Israel."

It also called on the Arab mass media, namely in Jordan, to give prominence to the expellees issue and not to let it fade away gradually.

Delegation Head Views Talks, Christopher Visit

TA1502112593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
12 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Amman—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, has ruled out the achievement of a final settlement or the signing of an agreement with Israel by the Palestinian side unless Israel recognizes the Palestinian leadership that directs or guides the Palestinian negotiators. Dr. al-Majali asked: How can any lines of agreement be reached with Israel by the Palestinian side when the authority responsible for this delegation is still unrecognized?

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Dr. al-Majali explained that the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations are insisting on the establishment of a Palestinian entity. A whole year of negotiations with Israel have resulted in drawing up the features of this entity, for whose establishment and inception everyone should endeavor. Israel is now negotiating with a Palestinian delegation which it cannot ignore. This affirms that the first year of negotiations was not in vain or wasted. The various parties concerned in the peace process have been acquainted with the detailed positions of the other parties, and the issue under negotiation has become clearer to everyone.

Dr. al-Majali noted that all attempts to create a big rift between Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories have met with failure. The Israeli side has become more convinced that this will not benefit the peace movement because peace must include Palestinians inside and outside, bearing in mind that most if not all Palestinians perceive the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Dr. al-Majali added that in the past, each time the delegates left for the talks, Israel would embark on provocative measures no less important than the deportation of the Palestinians to Marj-al-Zuhur. One cannot accept Israel's logic that the deportees are an obstacle to peace, and therefore must be expelled from their land. There are in Israel those who are against the talks and against peace; will Israel deport them?

Dr. al-Majali pointed out that one should not adopt a position against the talks without knowing of or thinking

about an alternative and what the Arabs are subsequently seeking. It is better, however, to support the peace process because we can achieve our rights through this process. The Palestinians inside and outside should alert the Palestinian negotiators of the need to realize Palestinian rights before signing.

Dr. al-Majali asked about the alternative to peace: Is it a military solution? This is impossible in the long-term. Should the Palestinian people remain under occupation, licking their wounds, and suffering until a military solution is achieved, or do we have an obligation to save them from this bitterness, which they are enduring daily?

Dr. al-Majali said that the Palestinian problem is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. Without progress on the Palestinian track no progress can be expected on any Arab track in the peace talks with Israel until the end, regardless of the stages which those talks may have reached. Some progress may take place in this or that track because the nature of the problems differ, but it is not possible to reach a final comprehensive settlement unless parallel and satisfactory progress is achieved on the Palestinian track. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Majali expected that the Arab foreign ministers whose countries are taking part in the negotiations with Israel will meet following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. They will assess the peace process and the Palestinian deportees' crisis and decide whether to go to the negotiating table. If they decide that going to the negotiating table benefits the Palestinian problem, they will go. Otherwise, they will not go.

Dr. al-Majali said that while not underestimating the Palestinian deportees' importance, capabilities, and patriotism, they are not the Palestinian problem. More than four million Palestinians have been living outside their land for a long time.

Dr. al-Majali expected that during his first visit to the region, the U.S. secretary of state will carry practical methods and solutions to put the negotiations back on course. This might lead to the adoption of practical measures that will facilitate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 relating to the deportees. This may also bring closer the recognition of the Palestinian leadership, because it is impossible to continue on the Palestinian track without recognizing the PLO. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and his colleagues will never sign anything in place of the PLO and the Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

Jordanian-Palestinian Summit Planned for 18 Feb
JN1802095293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Feb 93 pp 1, 23

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] A Jordanian-Palestinian summit will be held in Amman this evening, one day prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in Jordan.

Palestinian sources stressed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman this morning on a short one-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and a number of senior Jordanian officials.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the summit will focus on the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian deportees issue, and efforts being made to reactivate Arab solidarity.

Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation, arrived in Amman yesterday from the occupied territories to participate in the Jordanian-Palestinian summit. They are scheduled to leave for Jerusalem to meet with the U.S. secretary of state.

It was learned that 'Arafat will meet with the two Palestinian delegation members to give them instructions on the issues that will be discussed with the U.S. official.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has said that the PLO is concerned about restoring Arab solidarity and cohesion to Arab ranks under the current circumstances which target everyone, and which necessitate strong and clear support for the Palestinian people's national rights, and a serious stand against Israel's attempts to escalate its repression against the Palestinians in the occupied homeland. The resolutions of the international legitimacy, particularly Resolution 799, must be implemented, he added.

Answering a question, he said: There have been several attempts to coordinate stands among the concerned parties prior to Christopher's arrival in the region. The meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat is within the framework of coordination between Jordan and Palestine thanks to the special relations between them and their concern for Arab solidarity, based on noninterference in others' internal affairs, and for adopting a clear stand to confront international changes and threats to pan-Arab security.

He added: The Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships are concerned to continue meetings and consultations under these difficult and delicate circumstances, which necessitate a unified position and views in the interest of the Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

The ambassador expressed hope that the joint efforts would entrench the relaxation that had begun to surface in the Arab world.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that 'Arafat will leave for Baghdad tomorrow morning, Friday, the second visit in two weeks, within the framework of his efforts to break the ice between Cairo and Baghdad. Reliable sources said that the Palestinian president is carrying a reply message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The sources added that the Palestinian

mediation has achieved some success despite Kuwait's moves to completely isolate Iraq from its Arab environment.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives

JN1802091993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior officials.

He was received at Queen Alia Airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, and a number of senior Jordanian officials.

'Arafat is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Abu-Jabir Criticized Over Detainees in Egypt

JN1502095993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpt] Amman—Al-Mafraq Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi Monday called for resignation of Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir for "his failure to fulfill his duty" and take appropriate measures to secure the release of over 70 Jordanian citizens the deputy said are jailed in Egypt.

During a session of the Lower House Sunday, Mr. al-Dughmi called on fellow parliamentarians to withhold confidence from the foreign minister after strongly attacking the Egyptian government for allegedly detaining Jordanian citizens upon arrival in Egypt. He accused Dr. Abu-Jabir of "neglecting his duty."

Mr. al-Dughmi had earlier submitted a written request to Dr. Abu-Jabir to detail the measures the Foreign Ministry had taken to free Jordanian citizens reportedly detained in Egypt. He also listed the names of 10 Jordanians he said were being tortured in Egyptian jails.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the House has provided the ministry with 77 citizens it says are jailed in Egypt.

In his written reply to Mr. al-Dughmi, Dr. Abu-Jabir said the government had not received any official or documented information from the Egyptian government on the number of Jordanian citizens detained or details of charges levelled against them.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said the government had information based on letters leaked by detained Jordanians to their families, newspaper reports and communications from human rights organisations.

In addition to launching "official and personal" diplomatic efforts to collect information on the case, Dr. Abu-Jabir said the Jordanian embassy in Cairo also contacted the Egyptian authorities to verify unofficial information about the detention of Jordanian citizens but received no response.

"The embassy also directly contacted (concerned Egyptian authorities) at all levels but only received promises that have not been implemented," Dr. Abu-Jabir said.

"Non-Jordanian groups are contacting the Egyptian authorities for information on a number of detainees holding Jordanian passports," said Dr. Abu-Jabir, confirming that Jordanian citizens are detained in Egypt.

"This is a point against you and not for you," Mr. al-Dughmi said in a speech addressed to Dr. Abu-Jabir, who did not attend the House session.

"Your failure to treat this situation led to the intervention of non-Jordanian groups in the case," Mr. al-Dughmi said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit to Syria

JN1402165493 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (PETRA)—In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir expressed his total satisfaction with the results of the talks he had in Damascus yesterday.

He said that he conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, and he heard from President al-Asad his assessment for the situation in the region.

He added that the meetings he held with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' have enabled him to discuss various issues that concern the two fraternal countries, including the deportees crisis, the peace process, and the Arab situation.

He further said that he sensed that the Syrian leadership is willing to continue and intensify consultations and coordination with Jordan with the aim of fostering joint action and preserving Arab rights. He also felt that there is a certain desire to advance bilateral cooperation in all fields.

He said that he expects that in the near future a date will be fixed for the meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee in Amman to continue streamlining the bilateral cooperative march in the interest of the two countries.

Dr. Abu-Jabir returned to Amman last night at the end of a one-day visit to Syria.

Al-Hariri Addresses Chamber on Israeli 'Aggression'*NC1802131593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies during a meeting today discussed the latest spate of Israeli acts of aggression. During discussion of topics on the agenda, a number of deputies raised the issue of the Israeli occupation and attacks.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who attended the session, was very moved by the suffering of the people in southern Lebanon. He said that the people are fighting on behalf of Lebanon and the entire Arab nation. He delivered a speech in which he stressed that the contacts he held with the Security Council, friends, and next of kin were futile.

Al-Hariri said that the Israeli occupation is a poisoned arrow in the Lebanese body. He said that the Lebanese should resist the occupation and aggression. He requested that the Chamber of Deputies ratify a government plan to loan 60 billion Lebanese pounds to the council of the south. He said:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] Mr. Speaker, esteemed deputies: The Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and western al-Biq'a is a poisoned arrow in the Lebanese body. The Lebanese people all are dutybound to do everything they can to curtail and resist the Israeli aggression and occupation by all available means. The Israeli acts of aggression over the past two days, which were preceded by a series of attacks. [sentence incomplete as heard] Successive governments have tried to contact international circles, the Security Council, friends, and next of kin to help us stop these acts of aggression and implement Security Council resolutions, but all efforts have been futile.

Our brothers in the south are suffering a great deal. The state has not yet fulfilled its obligation toward them. Whatever the government does for our kinsfolk in the south is meager. Whatever the government does for our kinsfolk in the south falls short. When a home is demolished, the compensation paid to the owner is insufficient to remove the debris. When a Lebanese is injured or killed, the sum paid by the state is not enough to transfer him to hospital or cemetery. Government hospitals in the south lack equipment and ambulances. The government discussed this subject yesterday. We will submit to you a draft bill to approve a loan of 60 billion Lebanese pounds for the council of the south. I hope you will approve the bill so we can at least do part of our duty toward our kinsfolk who suffer from the occupation. These sums are meager and insufficient. Billions of pounds or dollars are insufficient to address the misery of the Lebanese. But we have to face this situation, and funds... [pauses] regrettably, we are forced to face these acts of aggression with the scant funds available.

We feel with our brothers in the south and hope we can do more for them. We are ready to offer what we have because they deserve much more to support their steadfastness. The government will make a more comprehensive study of

the situation in the south in the next few weeks and may submit to your Chamber specific proposals to ensure greater support for our steadfast kinsfolk, who resist and suffer attacks. They are fighting not only on behalf of Lebanon, but the entire Arab nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Information Minister Comments*NC1702212393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Feb 93*

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 17 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] At the invitation of the prime minister, the cabinet held its session this afternoon. His excellency the president attended the session. At the outset of the session, the prime minister reviewed his Arab tour during which he visited Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. He briefed the cabinet members on the outcome of his meetings with the leaders of fraternal countries. The meetings were of a political nature and dealt with the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to the region. The leaders of these states have voiced support for Lebanon's stand calling for implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south, western al-Biq'a, and Rashayya. [passage omitted]

The cabinet was then briefed on the reports regarding the persistent Israeli attacks on southern areas. These attacks are targeted against peaceful civilians and official and humanitarian institutions, causing grave human losses and material damage.

As a result of the deliberations, the cabinet adopted the following decisions:

1. To lodge a complaint at the UN Security Council and to ask Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations to brief the UN secretary general and the Security Council on the details of the aggression being committed by the occupation forces and to discuss the possibility of convening an emergency meeting by the Security Council; and
2. To give urgent assistance in support of the steadfastness of our kinsfolk in the south and western al-Biq'a and to reiterate the instructions given to the council of the south, the relief committee, and medical centers for this purpose.

The cabinet then discussed the topics on its agenda. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] If we ask ourselves this question, then why should we go to the Security Council? The Security Council and the United Nations are the only available way in international law to obtain one's rights. Lebanon and the fraternal Arab countries, which support our stand, are

holding widescale and pressing contacts to make the Security Council and the United Nations implement the UN resolutions that are bound to protect our citizens and their security.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the U.S. secretary of state to Beirut?

[Samahah] I have not been informed. [words indistinct]

Further Reportage on Shelling, Fighting in South

Israeli Reinforcements Arrive

NC1702210093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] According to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south, the occupation authorities brought in reinforcements consisting of military vehicles to their positions opposite the free areas.

The correspondent added that the Nahr al-Litani and the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills are coming under sporadic Israeli bombardment, noting that extreme tension persists in the areas adjacent to the occupied border zone following extensive artillery shelling. [passage indistinct]

Islamic Resistance Statement

NC1802085193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement on yesterday morning's operations. The statement emphasized that its groups, under supervision from senior leaders and backed by heavy and concentrated fire, at 0610 yesterday launched a wide-scale attack against the following enemy positions: Qal'at al-Shaqif, al-Zaffat, 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Dabshah, al-Tuhrah, al-Suwayda', Sujud, and Bi'r Kallab. The resistance fighters fully controlled the positions in Sujud, al-Suwayda', al-Tuhrah, and 'Ali al-Tahir and overran the al-Suwayda' and al-Tuhrah positions. The strugglers hoisted the flags and banners of the Islamic Resistance and posted the pictures of great Imam 'Abbas al-Musawi [former Hizballah secretary general] and [senior Hizballah official] Shaykh Raghieb Harb, as well as that of Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God preserve him. The mujahidin captured the commander of the company manning the al-Suwayda' position, who was wounded. He soon succumbed to his wounds, however, while being transferred outside the area. The brothers seized quantities of weapons and ammunition from the two above-mentioned positions. As a result of the massive attack, the enemy suffered no less than 10 dead and 25 wounded, from both the Zionists and [South Lebanese Army Commander Antoine] Lahd's agents.

In the meantime, other resistance groups were engaged in intensive bombardment of the al-Rayhan and al-'Ayshiyah barracks, the Lahd army's command, and the al-Shurayfah position. Shortly after the attack was over, the enemy, under the cover of heavy bombardment which reached most of the adjacent villages and backed by helicopter gunfire, tried to advance toward the mill near al-Suwayda'

River in an attempt to make up for its losses. The resistance groups, however, confronted the attempt and engaged the enemy in violent clashes, thus aborting its mission.

In struggling western al-Biq'a, the Zionist enemy yesterday evening tried to carry out a new aggression to lift the crumbling morale of its soldiers. According to reports, a Zionist force advanced from al-Ahmadiyah post toward al-Na'imah Hill overlooking the Qilya region. The force was made up of some infantry men and two Merkava tanks. When the force reached al-Na'imah Hill, it was ambushed by Islamic Resistance heroes, who sprayed the enemy force with rockets and intensive machine-gun fire. One tank was destroyed and all members of the patrol were killed or wounded. The enemy later strafed the scene of the operation at random with large-caliber machine guns and rockets. The fire reached Dallafah, the outskirts of Qilya, the al-Daydabah Hills, Bi'r al-Dhahr, the outskirts of Yuhmur, and the al-Litani River basin. The clashes and the enemy bombardment lasted for approximately 45 minutes, but the mujahidin returned safely to their bases.

During the night, the Zionist occupation troops shelled the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit in al-Nabatiyah from their positions in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah. This was accompanied by intensive overflights by helicopters, which dropped illumination flares over the area.

In a statement, the Islamic Resistance noted that the high-quality operations carried out by its fighters are of particular magnitude. From the technical and military viewpoint, the operations followed the enemy's declaration of a maximum alert in its ranks. The mujahidin, however, carried out their attacks regardless of the enemy's alert and were remarkably successful in infiltrating the enemy positions. As far as morale is concerned, these operations crown a series of successful and high-quality operations, thus once again stressing Israel's mistaken calculation that the assassination of al-Sayyid al-Musawi would break the resistance's back—exactly the opposite was true. From the political standpoint, the operations took place at a time when endeavors are under way to reschedule talks with the Zionist enemy and sideline the issue of the Palestinians exiled from their lands in a bid to promote and highlight the concept of defeatism. The high-quality resistance operations, the statement added, reflect the choice of our nation [words indistinct] and its right to regain the occupied territories in full.

SLA Radio Reports Casualties

NC1802090993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Tension prevails in the villages and towns of the south after yesterday's military escalation and the artillery exchange between the South Lebanese Army (SLA) and the saboteurs. [passage omitted]

The SLA yesterday foiled the saboteurs' attack on 'Arab Salim, killing two of them and injuring a number of others. The Voice of the South correspondent stressed that

Hizballah did not take any SLA member prisoner, if it claims so, let Hizballah display him in public.

Six SLA soldiers were injured, five slightly and one moderately. Some rockets fell in the eastern sector of the border zone, damaging some houses and cars. Reports say that an Israeli helicopter raided and destroyed the house of Hasan Ahmad at 1330 yesterday.

SLA Post Attacked

NC1802130393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] According to security sources in south Lebanon, resistance men this morning attacked a South Lebanese Army (SLA) position in al-Shumariyah, using machine guns and rockets. The occupation forces retaliated by shelling villages in al-Litani river basin.

AFP correspondents reported that Israeli warplanes overflew south Lebanon this morning.

Hizballah Statement Defends Right To Resist

NC1802085993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] A Hizballah statement has emphasized that the successful jihad operations remind the world once again that the enemy, and the United States behind it, are constantly trying to cover up facts; namely, that the attacked Zionist positions are located on Lebanese territory. These positions are symbols of invasion and aggression and can never become faits accomplis, the statement added.

The statement noted that the resistance mujahidin have proven to the public that they are fighting occupying invaders and are attacking Zionist positions to liberate the land and the people and maintain the people's dignity and pride. On behalf of the Islamic Resistance strugglers, the Hizballah statement urged the Lebanese Government to mobilize its institutions to meet the needs of our steadfast people. It urged the cabinet to adopt serious measures to show how interested it really is in the issue of liberation and the steadfastness of the people, who are the target of almost daily attacks by the Zionists and their agents.

Addressing our folk in the frontline villages, the Hizballah statement emphasized that the suffering and grief will, God willing, give way to a promising dawn in which we can live in real peace and security and enjoy dignity, pride, and victory.

Nasrallah, Fadlallah on 'U.S.-Zionist Peace'

NC1402140493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has said that the resistance does not approve of all the rules of the political game, because the only standard applied by the UN Security Council is that of the Americans. He contended that it is impossible to establish peace and

security in the region so long as there is a Zionist entity based on killing, destruction, usurpation, and terrorism.

Nasrallah pointed out that the only peace that can come out of negotiations is a U.S.-Zionist peace. He noted that the logic of resistance and revolution is stronger than ever. What our people in the south and western al-Biq'a are withstanding is the best illustration of that logic, he said.

Hizballah's secretary general called for a resolute official stand on the issue of liberation and resistance, because conspiring against resistance is tantamount to conspiring against sovereignty, liberty, and independence.

Nasrallah appealed to the Palestinian deportees to show more steadfastness and to the government not to back down on its stand. He underlined the need for national coexistence and peace, calling for the abolition of political sectarianism and the establishment of a system based on nonsectarian foundations. We are not against development; we want balanced development, he said.

For his part, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah criticized those who are impatient for peace with Israel. He warned against being deceived by phrases about peace. He asked: What is the meaning of the Israeli peace and what is our strategy in the Arab and Muslim worlds?

With America's help, Israel seeks to devastate Arab states through peace, because it failed to do so through war, Fadlallah said. He pointed out that there is a well-studied plan to preoccupy the Arab and Muslim worlds with certain disputes and controversies. The ultimate goal of this plan is to make us appear as though we are motivated by our big slogans while, in effect, we are being steered by that plan, he stated.

Fadlallah added: It is meant for us to be defeated psychologically as we face a psychological war by the media. This war promotes the idea that America has become the master of the world and that everybody should board the American train. Therefore, he added, it has become a question of who runs and acknowledges allegiance faster.

If America's power becomes a fait accompli, Fadlallah asked, why should our political action drive us to chase after this fait accompli instead of creating our own fait accompli?

Fadlallah concluded: Together, the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon make the reality that proves that freedom can confront the military, political, and security octopus.

Turkish TV Interviews Hizballah Leaders

Fadlallah on Role of Islam

TA1602144493 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2020 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah with Mithat Bereket in

south Lebanon for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded in English and Arabic with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Bereket] What is your exact relationship with Hizballah? Everyone says that you are the leader of this organization. Is this really true? Who is Muhammad Fadlallah really?

[Fadlallah] I do not belong to any political organization. My heart, however, is open to the entire Islamic world and to all those who wish to establish an Islamic state. Therefore, I do not consider myself the leader of any specific party. I regard myself as a source of reference open to all those who wish to benefit from it. The West is concerned over the strengthening of the Islamic movement in Lebanon and therefore wrongly accuses me of being the leader of such an organization.

[Bereket] Hizballah is known as a terrorist organization. Do you think this is true? Is Hizballah not really a terrorist organization?

[Fadlallah] In my opinion, Hizballah is a movement incorporating all the Muslims in the world. It is an important movement opposing all kinds of injustice and oppression. Even if I am not a member of Hizballah, I try to help its young people as much as possible. I do not have any links with this organization.

[Bereket] Does the fact that Turkey holds a secular position among the Islamic countries not bother you at all? There are in Turkey certain writers, journalists, and circles who oppose shari'ah and advocate laicism.

[Fadlallah] In our opinion, the Turkish Government may be secular, but it is the Muslim Turkish people who are important. We believe that the Turkish people are living with an Islamic spirit. The Turkish people are not separate from the Islamic world. Some of them may be opposed to the establishment of an Islamic state in Turkey, but it is a fact that there are also those who favor such a state in Turkey. If there is democracy in Turkey, these two views must be able to voice their opinions freely.

Turkey attempted to become Western but failed. Europe did not accept it into its common market, because Turkey's economy, culture, and security depend on the Islamic world. Therefore, Turkey must turn to Islam.

[Bereket] A secular journalist, however, was killed for his views. All fingers naturally pointed at fundamentalist terrorist organizations, and particularly at Hizballah. Is Hizballah involved in this?

[Fadlallah] We reject political murders. These deaths cannot serve any objective. Islam does not condone such murders. Furthermore, the accused is innocent until proven guilty. We are hoping that the Turkish people will not follow in the direction toward which the state wants to pull them.

Musawi on Terrorism

TA1602154693 Ankara Show Television in Turkish
2020 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Interview with Husayn Musawi, leader of Hizballah's military wing, by Mithat Bereket in Ba'labakk for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded in English and Arabic with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Bereket] How is Hizballah structured? Is it a single party, or is it an umbrella organization at the head of various groups and organizations?

[Musawi] Hizballah is a single party. There are Islamic groups other than Hizballah as well. Each group, however, is free to act as it wishes. The section that I head is within Hizballah and implements Hizballah's policies. Our aim is to terminate the Israeli occupation and unify the Islamic world by spreading the Islamic revolution. The name Hizballah became widespread after the Islamic revolution in Iran.

[Bereket] In that case, why do you resort to terrorist actions? The name Hizballah and especially your name are mentioned in many actions, ranging from kidnappings to bomb attacks.

[Musawi] Hizballah is not connected in any way with such methods. The kidnappings were undertaken by other Muslim groups. This is their own affair. Neither Hizballah nor I have any involvement with these incidents. For some reason, the Western press attributes everything to us; and the driving force behind this is the Western secret services and particularly the CIA.

[Bereket] A secular journalist was killed in Turkey, and according to certain reports Hizballah was the perpetrator. This has become the issue of the day. Are you involved with this incident? In other words, does Hizballah have a branch in Turkey? Did you assassinate Ugur Mumcu?

[Musawi] Categorically, no. We do not have any organization in Turkey, either by the name of Hizballah or any other name. The United States, however, is blaming the murder in Turkey on us because it is afraid of our power in Iran and Lebanon. Perhaps there is an organization calling itself Hizballah in Turkey, but this is not connected to us in any way. If we wanted to kill a person for his views, we would have started in Beirut. There are many journalists who hate us here, but we do not intend to kill any of them. Salman Rushdie, however, is another matter. He humiliated Islam and our prophet.

[Bereket] Is not God the only one who can take a person's life? Moreover, do you not believe in the freedom of thought? For example, Salman Rushdie's book will also be translated into Turkish. Do you not think that this is completely normal?

[Musawi] We do not kill anyone because he is not Muslim, but if someone goes ahead and humiliates Islam and the prophet, it has nothing to do with freedom. This is a humiliating attack as Israel's attack against our territory. We cannot accept this. Therefore, Khomeini ordered

Rushdie's death. Under these circumstances, translating Rushdie's book constitutes a great crime for us, not only in Turkey, but wherever it may be.

Minister on Informers, Syrian Redeployment

NC1402085693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has described the ministers who leak news about the cabinet meetings as informers who are unworthy of their responsibility. He said the defect does not lie in the al-Ta'if Accord but in the circumstances under which it is being implemented.

Samahah noted that contacts are being held with the opposition to convince it of the end of its dreams and to urge it to cooperate with the government. He denied that there are differences with Syria over the redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Samahah called for getting rid of sectarianism, which is a plague eating away at the homeland and for building a new society. He called on the media to compete to enrich the homeland and citizens.

Al-Hariri on Possibility of Israeli Withdrawal

NC1502081493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has renewed Lebanon's rejection of any separate deal with Israel. He said Lebanon is ready to join the Arab countries in any agreement they may reach with Israel. Al-Hariri cited Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as saying that he will exert all his effort to implement Resolution 425.

The prime minister disclosed that Syria does not have any objections over Lebanon making arrangements with Israel to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories based on Security Council Resolution 425. He also revealed that the initial reconstruction plan for the country will cost some \$2.5 billion, adding that the cost by the year 2000 will amount to several billion dollars.

Speaking to Egyptian newspaper chief editors, al-Hariri said no matter what happens, the issue of the Palestinian

deportees will be on the negotiating table. He said the days when Israel could make decisions that harmed Lebanon's national security and then ask Lebanon to solve the problem are over.

Forces Prevent Phalangist Takeover of Offices

NC1802091193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Phalangist Party leadership headed by leader Dr. George Sa'adah agreed to every initiative to take over Phalangist Party centers according to law. It courageously decided to take over these centers and restore party and social activities. Members of the Phalangist Party's political bureau, each with the members of his committee, went to the assigned districts to take over the party offices. They were confronted by Lebanese Forces personnel deployed amid flagrant bias by the Interior Ministry. In al-Ashrafiyah, party leader George Sa'adah was prevented from entering the center. He called on the Interior Ministry to close the al-Ashrafiyah party office and remove the personnel as a prelude to handing it over to its rightful owners.

In Jubayl district, the Lebanese Forces deployed personnel in the party center, giving them batons and stones and orders to stop anyone entering the offices. The personnel staged a clash with the head and members of the transitional committee in the Jubayl district, wounding Phalangist Party political bureau members Sam'an Karam and Joseph Karam, who were taken to Jubayl hospital. An Army force intervened immediately and detained culprits Farid Habib and Michel Khuri, who are not from the area, along with Khalil Basil and Joseph Mikhayil, who are Lebanese Forces members and supporters of Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Dr. Sa'adah reasserted that the Phalangist Party has no problem with the Lebanese Forces, but rather with its Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. He called on him to attend to his party and leave the Phalangist Party alone. He said the government should not be neutral, adding: If the dispute were ideological, we would demand that the state be neutral, but when the issue concerns party establishments and property and the leadership's legitimacy, the state must behave as a state. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Confers With Kurdish Leader Talabani

JN1702162293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] sources in Damascus have reported that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has received PUK leader Jalal Talabani in the Syrian capital. The PUK described the meeting as cordial and refused to divulge the topics discussed or the duration of the visit.

Informed sources said that Talabani arrived in Damascus yesterday in an attempt to reassure the countries neighboring Iraq that the Kurdish leaders adhere to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Talabani Comments on Visit

JN1802134593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Sana' al-'Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said that his visit to Syria is aimed at discussing the situation in Iraq in general, and in its northern and southern parts in particular, as well as the situation of the Iraqi opposition and the means to close its ranks. He added that removing the apparent tension between the Iraqi opposition and Syria during the Salah-al-Din conference, and explaining the facts and purposes of this conference to Syrian officials is a main objective of his visit.

Talabani denied that the Kurds are calling for an independent Kurdish state. He called for a federal union that includes the Kurds. He said that the existence of a Kurdish Government is due to the vacuum left by the Iraqi Government's withdrawal from the northern areas. He denied that the Kurds had established a Kurdish army, emphasizing that the Kurdish forces are protecting areas that, according to him, were abandoned by the Iraqi Government. He noted that these forces belong to the entire Iraqi opposition.

Talabani described the meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Iran to stress Iraq's territorial integrity as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. He noted that Turkey and Iran are depriving more than 20 million Kurds of their basic human and democratic rights. He ruled out an agreement in this regard among these three countries because of what he called deep and historical differences among them and the absence of real justification to unite their stands against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, as he put it.

Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation Continues Visit

Meets Prime Minister

JN1702172593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation at 1230 today. The

meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, the Syrian ambassador in Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them in various fields to realize the interests of both countries. The talks also dealt with investment activities in Syria and available opportunities for Arab investors. Current Arab and international political developments were also discussed.

The head and members of the fraternal parliamentary delegation hailed the role Syria is playing under President Hafiz al-Asad on both the Arab and international levels. They also expressed profound appreciation for Syria's principled and courageous stand under President Hafiz al-Asad toward the State of Kuwait.

Received by al-Asad

JN1702195793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun and his accompanying delegation at 1700 today. People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa attended the meeting.

Delegation Departs

JN1802100393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun left Damascus today following a three-day visit to Syria, during which it held parliamentary talks and met with senior officials to discuss means of promoting relations between the two fraternal countries.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, a number of People's Assembly members, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Media Comment on Christopher Tour, Deportees

Mideast Policy Off on 'Wrong Foot'

JN1602181493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli prime minister has boasted of his ability to exploit Washington and obstruct the efficiency of the highest international authority. He said: The recent Security Council statement has proven that we and the United States can prevent the United Nations from taking any measures. Rabin was referring to the

Security Council statement which considers Israel's consent to return only 100 of the over 400 Palestinian deportees as a step in the right direction, and which must be followed by returning all deportees as soon as possible.

The Security Council statement constitutes a clear retreat from Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to immediately return all Palestinian deportees, guarantee their safety, and stop the policy of deportation and expulsion. The statement came as the result of U.S. interference and pressure on the Security Council member states to ignore Israel's serious violations of the fourth Geneva convention and its clear defiance of the highest international authority through its noncompliance with Resolution 799.

We have no intention here to expose Israel's games since they are already evident to everybody. The whole world, not only the Arabs, calls for the abandonment of double standards. The deportee issue has strongly shaken the world's conscience and reminded people of the Nazis' crimes, when thousands of people were taken by force from their homes and thrown into camps of death, starvation, and thirst. What we want to say is this: Can Rabin really drag the United States to stands that are not in harmony with basic human rights? Can Rabin tamper with U.S. decisionmaking, as he boasts, and exploit a responsible superpower to cover crimes which are condemned by the whole world and which desecrate international charters and laws? These questions are legitimate in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East to hold talks on ways of advancing the peace process. The basic components of peace in the region are represented by Israel's respect for international law and charters, as well as the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Since 1948, Israel has disregarded the United Nations and its resolutions, rebelled against international legitimacy, and committed thousands of crimes. Meanwhile, the Security Council is always satisfied with expressing regret, concern, or condemnation. However, it does not champion its own resolutions and refrains from taking deterrent measures to straighten out matters and end the tribulation of millions of Arabs living under the yoke of occupation.

Peace can only be achieved in the Middle East with Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination. This requires Israel's compliance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Who can guarantee this compliance? Will the United States exert pressure on Israel to implement these resolutions, or will they all ultimately end up like Resolution 799, with Israel's announcement, for example, that it will withdraw from a few kilometers of occupied Arab territory and give the Palestinians some administrative rights, followed by the United States hastening to consider this a just interpretation of these resolutions?

It is clear that the United States has embarked on the wrong foot in its foreign policy in the Middle East by adopting Rabin's position. The deportee issue has not been resolved; it is still living evidence of Israel's brutality and

serious violations of Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter. Peace cannot prevail in the region if Rabin can, as he boasts, influence U.S. decisionmaking and exploit the United States to cover his crimes and massacres.

The previous administration pledged to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on exchanging land for peace and on the Security Council resolutions. The basic concept of justice calls for returning the Palestinian deportees to their homeland and regaining the occupied Arab territory—the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon. There is no way to achieve this without forcing Israel to respect international law. Who can do this?

New Perspective Urged

JN1702102993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, saying: We do not want to forestall events. We would, however, like to note some important points concerning the efforts made by the Arabs during the Washington peace talks to advance the peace process with a view to reaching the desired objectives. Indeed, some Arabs have offered more than they should have to achieve these objectives.

AL-BA'TH believes that the Arabs were reasonable when they demanded the implementation of the international resolutions pertaining to the conflict, particularly Resolutions 338 and 242. As for Israel, the paper notes, it has been engaged in a game of maneuvering and procrastination since the start of the peace process. It transpired that Israel was compelled to attend the peace talks. Since then, the Tel Aviv government has attempted to promote its idea of an abstract peace. It has failed to address the basic conditions for achieving peace, in total disregard of UN resolutions and Washington's initiative, which provides for exchanging land for peace, and on which the peace process was based.

The paper notes Israel's provocative stand, saying that Rabin's government has embarked on a policy of mass expulsions, indiscriminate killing, and house demolitions in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: If the new U.S. Administration is serious in its peace efforts, it must handle regional issues, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, from a different perspective than that of the former administrations.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: All we want is the vindication of right and justice as well as the implementation of international resolutions, which would achieve stability and peace in the region. But if the U.S. policy remains biased toward Israel, the regional situation will only go from bad to worse.

TISHRIN newspaper editorializes on Israel's reactions to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour, saying:

On the eve of Christopher's tour, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 borders is unacceptable. This shows that Israel has not changed its obstructionist policy.

TISHRIN wonders: How can there be talk of peace when Israel shows determination to hold on to the occupied Arab territories? How can Christopher's tour achieve its objectives when Israel continues its procrastination?

TISHRIN adds: The Arabs have demonstrated sincere concern to advance the peace process. Moreover, the United States has seen the sincerity of the credible Arab political position. In contrast, Israel has continued to place obstacles in the way of peace efforts. All this requires the United States to remove the obstacles placed by Israel. Otherwise, Christopher will find himself facing a difficult situation.

TISHRIN goes on to say: By forestalling Christopher's tour with declarations of opposition to withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Israelis want to thwart the mission of the U.S. secretary of state and to impose their conditions, which are hostile to peace and which are manifesting themselves in their acts, which have turned cities and villages in the occupied territories into a battleground, not to mention the repeated Israeli aggressions on southern Lebanon and Israel's attempts to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN wonders: To what extent can the United States in particular use pressure to lay the groundwork for a just and comprehensive settlement in the region in terms of removing all the Israeli traps planted in the way of a true and durable peace?

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that it is difficult to anticipate events and prejudge Christopher's tour before knowing the proposals he is carrying and the extent to which they harmonize with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH wonders whether the Clinton administration's proposals will be able to end the stalemate and remove the obstacles standing in the way of peace efforts, as manifested in Israel's anti-peace conduct.

The paper notes the current developments in the occupied territories, where Israel is pursuing a policy of aggression and oppression, killing Palestinian children and expelling Palestinians. The paper maintains that the United States alone supported Israel in all this. So if this support were to be deemed a standard, one can say that Christopher's tour will not provide anything new to promote the cause of peace.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the U.S. Middle East policy must change, and that there must be a positive and more thorough understanding of regional issues and the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: U.S. credibility and the new world order being promoted by the United States require serious efforts to realize justice and equality. The

promotion of discrimination and double standards will only render Israel a state above international law. Indeed, compelling Israel to implement international resolutions is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Israeli Manipulation Seen

JN1702165793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The UN Security Council announcement seeking to skirt Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees has been received with widespread Arab resentment, the impression being that the Council's move was the outcome of collusion between the United States and other powers, on the one hand, and Israel on the other, with a view toward easing international pressure on Israel—albeit temporarily—to comply with the resolution and to instead focus on a speedy resumption of the peace talks. While the announcement did not repeal Resolution 799, nor did it—as Israel claims—close the chapter of the deportees along the lines of the U.S.-Israel deal, it did ease international pressure on Israel. The announcement has had the effect of diverting the international community's attention from an immediate implementation of Resolution 799 to a speedy reconvening of the peace talks.

To temper global opposition to the self-styled compromise it worked out with Washington over the deportees, Israel cunningly used the link between a resolution of their problem and the relaunching of the peace talks to play on the international community's concern for the future of the peace process. Despite Israel's wily exploitation of the international community's legitimate fear over the future of the peace process—which provided a rare opportunity to achieve peace in the Middle East—its official daily rhetoric furnishes irrefutable evidence that its protestations of a keenness to restart the talks are less emblematic of a genuine concern for and a sincere interest in peace than an attempt to get off the hook of international pressure.

On the eve of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region to lay the groundwork for the next round of Arab-Israeli talks, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that Israel will not depart from the position it has adopted over the past eight rounds. Judging from official Israeli statements, Israel seems to want to be perceived as being interested in a quick reconvening of the talks—never mind whether these will prove more fruitful than the past eight rounds, which Israel's conduct at the negotiating table made sure were fruitless.

Will the international community let Israel behave as it pleases and play fast and loose with the future of the peace process? It was Israel that created the deportee problem, thus casting the entire peace process in doubt, and then went about shedding tears over it and pressing for the resumption of talks.

For the Arabs and the world, the peace process is of such importance that Israel cannot, and indeed should not, be

allowed to manipulate it to suit its whims and objectives. The international community's concern for peace and the future of the Middle East peace process should not be allowed to be used by Israel to shirk its obligations toward international legitimacy. Nor should it be allowed to get away with its continued recklessness and defiance of international law.

The international community must match its will for a resumption of peace talks with a determination to make Israel honor all UN resolutions—242, 338, and 425, as well as 799.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Deportees

JN1502210693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Feb 93

["Text" of message sent to President Hafiz al-Asad by the "Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon" on 13 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds. May God's peace and blessings be upon the messenger of God, his household, his companions, and whoever upholds the message until doomsday.

Our Lord! Decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide. [part of Koranic verse]

Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you:

In this message we would like to acquaint you with our situation. We were taken from our houses and children in the dark of the night. We were blindfolded and our hands and feet were tied. We were placed in trucks for 36 hours, during which time we were not allowed to move or go to the restroom. In addition, they cursed Arabism, Islam, the prophet, and God. When we were untied and the blindfolds were removed, we were told that we were in Lebanon and that Israel had decided to expel us.

When you were informed of our deportation, you adopted a stand that will be remembered with pride in the contemporary history of our nation. You spared no effort nor ignored any opportunity to call for returning us to our homeland and kin

Your Excellency: We do not need to acquaint you with what we represent or who we are. Israel has called us as a group of terrorists. We are a group of university professors in Palestine; preachers of mosques, particularly the al-Aqsa Mosque; members of scientific and social institutes, such as the League of Palestine Scientists; members of al-Zakah [Islamic tax] committees; doctors; engineers; and some UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] officials; in addition to people who are far away from the description which Israel is trying to give. Most of us are old and some of us have been blind for a long time.

We are spending our days on the Lebanese mountains surrounded by snow. We neither have enough food nor shelter to protect us from this very cold weather. We drink

water from muddy valleys. There is no doubt that the media have conveyed part of our suffering.

Your Excellency: This tragic situation, however, has another face. We are from Bilad al-Sham [Greater Syria], and the borders are marks left by colonialism. This is what we learned from you. Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon form Bilad al-Sham. We cannot accept colonialist separation. We, in our Palestine, are part of our greater Bilad al-Sham. Although we have a smaller homeland, Palestine, Damascus remains the head and leader. The remaining parts constitute the limbs. Thus, your stand was in harmony with norms and principles.

Thanks to your historic stand in all forums and on all levels, the Security Council adopted Resolution 799 which provides for our immediate and safe return because the deportation decision is contrary to all international rules and laws.

Your Excellency: Please allow us to present our view as regards some of the threats resulting from our deportation by Israel and the objective behind this deportation:

1. To empty our country of its people. If they succeed in such a step, other steps will follow.
2. To destroy the educational and charitable institutions by depriving them of their effective members.
3. To stifle our people by expelling the clergymen, mosque preachers, and teachers.
4. To terrorize our people in order to stop them from daring to express their opinions or discuss their conditions.
5. To pave the way for making children homeless and undermining the family structure.
6. To destroy the virtuous values and ethics. This will make it easier for them to execute their schemes.
7. To embarrass the Arab states with Israel's conduct toward the people of Palestine, as if they have no ties to their kinfolk and families within the Arab peoples and states surrounding them.
8. Israel constantly talks about peace as if it uses peace as a cover to expel the Palestinians from their homeland. If asked to return the deportees, Israel begins to shed crocodile tears about peace as if there were people who need the just peace more than the people of Palestine.
9. After the expulsion, Israel started a feverish campaign against the children of Palestine. It opens fire on the children on their way to and from school.
10. Israel began to fire anti-tank rockets at homes, and everything inside, under the pretext that some of those wanted are hiding in them.

Mr. President, before we were deported, we were not asked any questions. We were not charged or brought to trial. Despite this, Israel claims to the world that it has democracy.

Mr. President, we appreciate your honorable stands and constant support for our cause and insistence on our return. That stand and this insistence reflect the genuine Arab origins and the sincerity of pan-Arab feelings. This fact is as clear as the midday sun. Those firm stands will, without a doubt, block the road in front of Israel's attempts and close, once and for all, the door of deportation.

Mr. President, we draw our steadfastness, determination, and strength from your strength, steadfastness, and determination. When Israel tried to circumvent UN Security Council Resolution 799 by dividing that resolution and allowing 100 people to return to Palestine, and then allowing the return of the others a year later, we vowed not to accept the attempt to circumvent the said resolution. If such a circumvention occurs, Israel will circumvent the other resolutions. Rabin has stated: If we implement Resolution 799, the Arab negotiators will demand the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

On the conclusion of this letter, we reaffirm our thanks and appreciation for your honorable, known stand on our cause and right to an immediate, safe return to our country, families, and children. We pledge to you not to accept any homeland as an alternative to our country, Palestine, and not to abandon our stands which are the same as your honorable stands. To you we belong, and will always be the same. We will not leave our site until we return.

God bless you, and guide you on the right path. May He help you succeed for the benefit of the country and people. Until we meet with you in a prayer in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque; this is not a hard thing for God to grant. Honor belongs to God, His prophet, and the believers. [part of Koranic verse]

[Dated] 13 February 1993

[Signed] The Palestinian deportees in South Lebanon

Afghanistan

'U.S. Commandos' Said Behind Mansur's Murder

LD1702235493 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—America was behind the recent assassination of Afghan mujahideen leader Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur and Pakistan is holding two American commandos in this connection, according to a well placed source in the Pakistani city of Peshawar today.

The report follows the recent disclosure by leader of Pakistan's Jami'at Eslami, Qazi Husayn Ahmad, that a group of U.S. commandos are in Pakistan on a mission to assassinate some Afghan leaders.

The source who preferred to remain anonymous told IRNA that talk of American involvement in the murder of the former leader of Afghanistan's "Harakat-e Enqelabi-e Eslami-ye" was the current topic in Pakistani private circles and Afghan groups living in that country.

He also revealed that the news doing the round in Pakistani Army and party circles and in Afghan mujahideen bureaus in Peshawar was that the commando team involved in Mansur's murder was made up of two Americans, an Israeli and a Canadian, who entered Pakistan as part of U.S. forces.

The source said that members of parliament and various Pakistani groups were concerned about the secret presence of American commandos in Baluchistan Province because of the news of their malicious designs for exploiting the Afghan leaders.

He claimed that Pakistan's security personnel have arrested two of the commandos after the assassination of Mansur.

Mansur, an independent revolutionary leader, who greatly curtailed the activities of the so-called American advisory forces in eastern Afghanistan, was killed on February 9 in Paktia Province.

As leader of the "Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami-ye" he was one of the prominent figures in the struggle against the Marxist regime in Kabul.

Following reshuffle in his party in the wake of the mujahideen's victory, Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi took over the leadership of the Harakat with Mansur serving as the deputy leader.

Sayyaf Forces To Withdraw; Peace Talks Continue

LD1702122093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
17 Feb 93

[Text] Our country's embassy in Kabul continues its efforts to prolong the cease-fire between the forces of the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nozzar] and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

In the talks held so far the two sides have agreed to the stationing of the National Islamic Movement of the North's forces, under the command of General Dostam, as a buffer between the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Supervisory Council.

According to a report by our correspondent in Kabul, in order to prevent possible clashes, delegations will supervise the implementation of the cease-fire.

According to this report the two sides also agreed that the forces of Sayyaf's Ettehad will evacuate the Shi'ite-inhabited areas of western Kabul. The evacuation of those forces ostensibly started yesterday.

Meanwhile, in a statement Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami condemned the inhuman acts of the forces of the Supervisory Council and Sayyaf's Ettehad in attacking the Afshar and Chandawol areas in western Kabul, and called on international forums to look into such acts. Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami described the massacre of defenseless men, women, and children; the plunder of properties; and setting fire to houses as among those acts.

At the same time, Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami yesterday reiterated its call for the resignation of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani as a condition for peace. The spokesman of the party in Pakistan said: The Hezb-e Eslami has submitted its conditions for peace to the mediators who are attempting to start talks between the Afghan Government and the opposition.

Islamic Union Leader Interviewed on Situation

PM1802104393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
12 Feb 93 p 8

[Interview with 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Union of Afghanistan, by Jamal Khashuqji in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] How do you find the the situation in Kabul at present?

[Sayyaf] The situation is better than it was two days ago, when Kabul was hit by about 400 rockets. About 60 people were killed and 100 wounded as a result. The fighting has eased now.

[Khashuqji] It has been noted that there has been no cease-fire or any attempt to announce a cease-fire since the recent fighting erupted. Why?

[Sayyaf] I used to conduct that task (mediation) in the past, but, regrettably, our friend Hekmatyar attacked us too, leaving no room for mediation. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Does that mean that you hold Hekmatyar responsible for the war?

[Sayyaf] I hold him responsible for all the problems which have occurred over recent months. I mediated between them (Hekmatyar and Rabbani) for seven months, but it became clear to me that the man is after nothing but power. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] In your view, what is the right solution to this crisis?

[Sayyaf] The right solution is for us to pray to God to cure Hekmatyar and inspire him not to resolve his problems and disputes through fighting, which is forbidden. If he has any demands, he should submit them to his brothers. We see no justification whatsoever for using arms and force to resolve our disputes.

[Khashuqji] Is the government willing to observe a cease-fire if the Hezb-e Eslami does the same?

[Sayyaf] The government does not want a seasonal or temporary cease-fire that allows preparation for another battle. It wants a final cease-fire. It wants the party to submit guarantees that it will not resort to force, to hand over all its heavy weapons, to leave the positions from which the rockets are fired, and to end the state of alert in its forces.

[Khashuqji] Would Dostam's return to the government affect your alliance with President Rabbani?

[Sayyaf] There is no possibility of returning Dostam to the Islamic government.

[Khashuqji] But it was announced that he has been appointed deputy defense minister.

[Sayyaf] Just as we denounced Hezb-e Eslami's agreements with Dostam, we will reject his appointment as deputy defense minister. What was published (in the press) reflects a personal view. The government has not appointed its ministers yet, so how could it have appointed a deputy minister?

[Khashuqji] What will be your position if it is proved that there is cooperation between (Defense Minister) Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Dostam?

[Sayyaf] I am certain that the government will not cooperate with Dostam. If—God forbid—that happens, our position is clear and we have told the government that we are its soldiers as long as it follows the line of Islam. We have confidence in Professor Rabbani and brother Mas'ud, and, God willing, they will not depart from this line. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] With regard to the continuing dispute between you and the Unity Party [Hezb-e al-Wahdah]—what is the reason for this dispute, and why is it limited to your two parties alone. Why, for example, isn't there a dispute between the government and the Unity Party?

[Sayyaf] The Unity Party is also fighting the government now. There is complete coordination between the Hezb-e Eslami and the Shiite Unity Party. We have documents which prove this. As for the Shiites' fight against us in recent months and the occurrence of battles between us, the reason was my mediation role between the government and the Hezb-e Eslami. The Unity Party believed that this

posed a threat to its identity and false aspirations. Whenever I managed to get Hekmatyar and Rabbani together, the Unity Party attacked me with the Isma'ili militias' help. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Are you optimistic, and do you see imminent peace on the horizon in Kabul?

[Sayyaf] Peace will come, God willing. It is the end of the thorough examination phase, and these problems are part of the nature of the phase. We pray to God it will end peacefully and in favor of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Finally, how is the government's military situation?

[Sayyaf] The government's military situation is good and reassuring, praise be to God.

Opposition Leaders Unlikely To Meet in Riyadh

LD1402200793 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT
14 Feb 93

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 14, IRNA—Leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front Sebghatollah Mojaddedi Sunday that it was "unlikely" for the Afghan leaders to hold a meeting in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to IRNA, Mojaddedi said most of the six Afghan groups which agreed with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's proposal, accepted the proposal "conditionally".

If Riyadh is able to convince interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani who leads the Afghan Islamic Society, to attend the joint meeting solely as a leader of one of the Afghan parties, then we could hope that the meeting will be held.

Mojaddedi who was post-Marxist Afghanistan's first interim president, called on the present incumbent to solve the disputes "peacefully" to prevent continuation of war. He warned that prolongation of the clashes could result in fragmentation of Afghanistan ruled by different feudal regimes.

Expressing hope that Afghan leaders would solve their problems without the need of foreign intervention, Mojaddedi added, however, we would welcome mediation from Muslim countries or those who assisted the Afghan people during the 14 years of jihad.

He said he had no personal disagreement with Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, and added that the present relations between the two was for safeguarding national interests.

Bangladesh

Malaysian Prime Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

Welcomed by Foreign Minister Rahman

BK1202140593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, was accorded a hearty reception when he

arrived in Dhaka this afternoon on a three-day official visit. He is visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The Malaysian prime minister is accompanied by his wife, Dr. Siti Hasmah. They were received at the airport by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will host a reception in honor of the visiting Malaysian prime minister at Bangabhaban [president's house]. During their formal talks, the two leaders will discuss matters of mutual interest including boosting bilateral cooperation. It is expected that regional and international issues will also come up during their discussions.

Emphasizes Need for Stability

BK1302110393 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1002 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By Azman Ujang]

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Democracy is not a guarantee for success for countries and will become meaningless if there is turmoil and disorder, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Saturday.

The democratic system is only a means to an end, but the ultimate goal should be social and political stability for economic development and well-being of the people, he said at a civic reception in which he was presented with the key to the city of Dhaka on the second day of his three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Dhaka Mayor Abbas Nizami presented the symbolic key to Dr. Mahathir at the ceremony in front of Jatiya Sangsad, the Bangladesh parliament. Also present were Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, foreign ambassadors here, and senior government officials.

The Jatiya Sangsad is perhaps the most majestic and magnificent parliament building in Asia, signifying Bangladesh's respect and commitment to the principles of democracy which Dr. Mahathir chose as the theme of his speech at the ceremony.

Democracy cannot exist for the sake of democracy alone. Democracy is meaningless if it fails to enhance the well-being of the people and if turmoil and disorder become the way of life, the prime minister said.

Dr. Mahathir said legitimacy in government attained through the democratic process should lead to the promotion rather than the regular disruption of legitimate social, political, and economic activities.

It is essential therefore that democracy and development in all fields go hand in hand without the former being a liability to the latter, he added.

In ruling out the democratic system as a guarantee for success for countries, he said each democratic nation, whether big or small, had still to shape its own destiny and find its own place in the international community.

He said each democratic country had to live with all its strength and resources and the weaknesses that it inherited.

Holds Talks With Khaleda Zia

BK1302134293 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Malaysia and Bangladesh have pledged to further enhance bilateral economic cooperation and agreed to explore avenues to boost trade and investment. The understanding was reached during formal talks between Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Khaleda Zia, in Dhaka. An official Bangladeshi spokesman, Riaz Rahman, said all aspects of bilateral ties were reviewed. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the current level of economic cooperation while stressing the need for more joint venture projects on cement, marble chips, food and allied products, chemicals, textiles, and engineering products.

Meanwhile, during separate talks with the minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, Bangladesh Commerce Minister Encik [Mr.] Anwar invited Malaysian investors to take advantage of incentives Dhaka was providing for foreign investment.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and his delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday for a three-day official visit. He will visit the southeastern city of Chittagong tomorrow before leaving for Pakistan on a similar visit.

Increased Cooperation Planned

BK1302153393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Summit-level talks between Bangladesh and Malaysia on bilateral and international issues were held in Dhaka today with a pledge to increase cooperation between the two countries in various sectors and to establish greater consensus on global problems.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed led their respective delegations to the two-hour talks. All aspects of bilateral relations and the international situation were reviewed by the two leaders during the meeting. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave a detailed outline of the basic principles of domestic and foreign policy of Bangladesh and also the policies regarding a free market economy and the expansion of regional and international cooperation.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the present cooperation in economic activities. They emphasized the need to boost joint ventures in the production of cement, marble sheets, food and allied products, chemicals, and engineering products. The two sides also held discussions on manpower export to Malaysia, including employment opportunities for physicians and engineers. They also held discussions on matters relating to cultural, sports, and defense exchange programs.

The Malaysian Prime Minister inaugurated the Malaysian Trade Center in Dhaka today. It is the first private sector trade center and will be jointly operated by Bangladesh-Malaysia Welfare Limited. The center will play a vital role in increasing economic and trade cooperation, and further develop existing friendly ties between the two countries. Among others, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Haji Ahmed Badawi, Bangladesh Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, and Labor and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan were present on the occasion.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has expressed hope that an increase in bilateral economic cooperation will usher in a new phase in the relationship between Malaysia and Bangladesh. He said this while exchanging views with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban [president's house] this morning. He also praised the initiative taken by the present government to industrialize the country and also held discussions on population and literacy programs launched by the Bangladesh Government. Repatriation of Rohingya refugees also came up for discussion. President Biswas appreciated the rapid development of Malaysia since its independence and expressed hope that the relationship between the two countries in economic, trade, and manpower export sectors will be further strengthened. Begum Biswas and Dr. Siti Hasmah were also present on the occasion.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed also laid floral wreaths at the national mausoleum dedicated to the martyrs of the Bangladesh independence war. He was received at the mausoleum by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah and GOC [General Officer Commanding] of the 9th Infantry Division, Major General Abdul Matin. The Malaysian premier also signed the visitors book and planted a sapling in the mausoleum complex. The works minister presented him with a replica of the mausoleum.

Economic Accord Signed

BK1302162093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] An accord on economic and commercial cooperation was signed in Dhaka today between the Federation of the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia. The federation president, Mr. Mahbubur Rahaman and the president of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, (Tan Sri Azmi Wan Hamz), signed the accord on behalf of their respective organizations. The two sides also agreed to exchange trade and investment delegations to explore possibilities of cooperation and technical assistance.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honor by the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed expressed hope that the current level of joint venture between the two countries would continue to increase. Dr. Mahathir commended Bangladesh's significant progress

toward rapid privatization and introduction of an industrial policy which encourages greater foreign participation. He said all this will pave the way for better economic growth.

Banquet Speeches Noted

BK1402124393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has sought Malaysian cooperation in various fields of development for Bangladesh's quest for economic progress. She was addressing a state banquet given by her in honor of the visiting Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, at Sena Kunja last night. Begum Zia invited Malaysian entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh and to set up joint venture projects and industries with Bangladeshi partners. She also asked them to take the advantage of incentives and the facilities provided by her government to encourage foreign investment in the private sector. The prime minister also expressed [words indistinct] with Malaysia and hoped that Bangladeshi exportable products would be allowed to enter Malaysian market at a preferential rate of duty, at least at par with the competing products and the ASEAN trade pattern scheme.

Referring to the formal talks between Bangladesh and Malaysia yesterday, Begum Zia firmly felt both the countries have vast potentials to improve cooperation in all fields in the mutual benefit of each other. Begum Zia said locations in South Asia and Southeast Asia (?have brought) Bangladesh and Malaysia closer and ancient cultural, religious and historical bonds bind the two countries from time immemorial. The prime minister recalled the bilateral visits [words indistinct] and lauded personal initiatives and contribution of Dr. Mahathir toward strengthening the friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries. Begum Zia described Dr. Mahathir as a great world leader and trusted friend of Bangladesh and welcomed the Malaysian premier, his wife Dr. Siti Hasmah, and members of his entourage.

Begum Zia said her government, elected through a free and fair election, is firmly committed to a multiparty democracy and an open market economy. She said the government was continuing its tireless efforts for economic development, consolidation of democratic institutions and upholding human rights. Positive signs are visible in Bangladesh's economy, the prime minister said. Rising production and export, decreasing inflation, improving tax and revenue collections are indeed clear aspects of Bangladesh's current economic progress. She said last year, the country's agricultural production exceeded previous year's output level and added Bangladesh is now on the way to attain self-sufficiency in food. She said through SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] we are making sincere efforts to develop bilateral relations with our South Asian neighbors on the one hand, and maintaining peace and harmony in South Asia to promote regional cooperation on the other. She also referred to the constructive and just role of both the countries in multi-lateral and international arenas and said both Bangladesh

and Malaysia protested against the inhuman torture of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Begum Zia said Bangladesh believes in the political solution of the problems arising out of the disappearance of the former state of Yugoslavia. She also reiterated Bangladesh's support to the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and urged the Israelis to withdraw from occupied territories of Arabs and Palestinians.

In his reply, Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said his country is interested in cooperating with Bangladesh in the fields of agriculture, education, defense and religion and to strengthen cultural, youth and sports exchange programs. The Malaysian prime minister said he is looking forward to the further consolidation of the special relationship between the two countries through the implementation of complete action program, increased activity between the private sectors of Bangladesh and Malaysia and [words indistinct]. He said the socioeconomic program and privatization policy of Bangladesh provide considerable opportunities for bilateral collaboration. His country would encourage the private sector to explore the potential in this area and the government agencies will do their part to facilitate the process. Dr. Mahathir said under the Malaysian technical cooperation, both Bangladesh and Malaysia have been working together for mutual interests. He expressed satisfaction over the recent increase in trade between the two countries and mutual exchange of visits. He said Bangladesh has become an important source of manpower [words indistinct] in Malaysia's industrial and plantation sectors during the last two years. He expressed the hope that Bangladesh will establish a trade center in Kuala Lumpur similar to the one which had been established by the private sector of Malaysia in Dhaka. Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was looking forward to cooperate with Bangladesh in the proposed establishment of the Bangladesh pilgrimage and [words indistinct].

Referring to regional and interregional cooperation, the prime minister said interregional cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN is an important framework for strengthening [words indistinct]. In this context, he said it is important that we work closely in international fora such as the United Nations, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] the Commonwealth and other international organizations.

Holds News Conference

BK1402095093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Malaysia is ready to engage in labor-intensive industries in Bangladesh and buy more of its goods. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said today that while Malaysia would profit from such investment, but it benefits Bangladesh in terms of creating jobs for its abundant labor market. [sentence as heard]

He was speaking at the press conference at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at the end of his three-day official visit to Bangladesh. He said Malaysia is now short of workers

while Bangladesh has got plenty. The establishment of labor-intensive industries will be beneficial to Bangladesh in terms of employment and to Malaysia in terms of profit.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia would also (?import) more goods from Bangladesh to increase the present low level of trade between the two countries. Active follow up will be made by Malaysian businessmen whom he has brought along on the trip to buy more products from Bangladesh and trade can be expected to increase.

Malaysia has identified certain goods which it will (?import) from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is currently one of Malaysia's nearest trading partners, accounting for almost (70.1 percent) of its total world trade. The first nine months of last year, their two-way trade totalled 51 million US dollars.

The prime minister said steps will be taken to improve the sea and air links between the two countries as a means of boosting trade. Communication is still not so good, especially shipping. Both countries also need to facilitate the travels. Currently, there is only one flight weekly by Biman, the Bangladesh airline, to Kuala Lumpur and he believes this is not enough, and steps will have to be taken to coordinate.

Responding to a call by Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for Malaysia to take in trained manpower, like doctors, engineers, and nurses instead of only laborers, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia welcomes this and will need them whenever possible.

India

Customs To Intercept Arms Shipment From Pakistan

BK1802091793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Feb 93 p 9

[By Prabhat Sharan]

[Text] Bombay—Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), it is believed, has shipped a huge consignment of automatic weapons for Indian shores through syndicates operating both in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bombay, according to highly-placed Customs intelligence sources.

The specific intelligence in this regard was received by the top brass of the Customs themselves and an alert to intercept the contraband and firearms has already been issued to this effect.

Enquiries have revealed that the firearms consignment is likely to be sent in the contraband containing gold and silver. The tip-off was received on January 25 and the intelligence agencies here consider that the landing of the contraband is likely to take place in the first or second week of February.

The landing of the contraband is likely to take place either at Vasai, Dadar Pen, around Bombay, Shrivardhan, Bankot, Ratnagiri, Bassein, Satpati and Southern beach of Goa.

However, though the vigil on these landing points have been tightened, a senior Customs official said that "With the type of boats we have and several of them out of order... the contraband carrying boat has got high chances of slipping in and successfully landing the consignment".

Underworld sources disclosed that in the month of January at least three landings of silver had taken place. The first one took place on January 5 at Daman, the second on January 20, along Karanj creek and the third the next day somewhere along Versova. The silver consignment which was off-loaded at Daman, probably contained firearms, it is learnt.

The Pakistani syndicates which are operating from UAE whose help ISI is taking to smuggle in firearms are: Abdul Wahab Galadhari and Aslam Bhatti. While both the smugglers have a vast network in India and Pakistan, Bhatti has a very powerful hold in Sindh area. On the shores here, the ISI is using Haji Umar Malabari—one of the oldest smugglers—operating here and Mirchi. His main landing agent here is Fazal.

Sources revealed that the firearms in the underworld market is not just coming from the Pakistani shores but also from African shoreline where guns are exchanged on the basis of narcotics—specially Mandrax. The other group which has also jumped in the gun-running market is LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. LTTE is specialising in the supply of only sophisticated firearms and explosives. However, underworld sources revealed that the prices which they demand exceeds those demanded by Punjab terrorists and underworld dons of Gujarat like Latif.

Enquiries have revealed that the gun-runners and terrorist outfits operating in the nation, after the riots noticing that there was a mad rush to buy the firearms immediately jacked up their prices. For the terrorist outfits the riots have come as a boon as not only they can create more havoc by pumping in arms but also rake in profits. The other reason behind the rush is that there has been a mushrooming of self-styled security groups in the city and this has been more due to the increase in extortion and protection money from the petty traders.

Sources disclosed that the other inlet for the firearms is through foreign cargo ships and the gun distributors operating in the docks wade into sea and at the BFL [expansion unknown] point they unload it. Several senior Customs officials opined that the gun-running in the metropolis is not a new phenomenon. The fact was that "almost everyone had turned a blind eye towards it and only now we are waking up".

Underworld sources disclosed that the current prices of the firearms in the underworld market are: .32 revolver and pistol: Rs [rupees] 40,000 to Rs 50,000; imported cartridge Rs 100 to Rs 150; 7.63 Mauser: Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000;

cartridge: Rs 200; .38 revolver and pistol: Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000; cartridge: Rs 450; .45 semi-automatic pistol: Rs 80,000 to Rs one lakh; cartridge: Rs 350; .45 revolver: Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000; cartridge: Rs 175; AK-47 (though outdated): Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.50 lakh.

Commentary on Kohl Visit, Relations With Germany

BK1702122993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Commentary by P.C. Kapur, special PAI correspondent: "India-Germany—a Vibrant Relationship"]

[Text] India is keenly looking forward to the visit to India by Dr. Helmut Kohl, German federal chancellor. He will begin his five-day visit on 18 February. In the course of this visit, the chancellor will receive the prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1990. He receives this award for his role for the unification of Germany. Interestingly, this is his third visit to India.

For the last two years, the world has watched with wonder the momentous events in and around Germany: the crumbling of the Iron Curtain and the reunification, the collapse of Communism and the triumph to the east of Germany, and Germany's inconspicuous but unmistakable assumption of the economic leadership. Germany is now one of the three industrial power houses of the world. Its fortunes and its actions send pulsations throughout the world. The credit mainly goes to Dr. Helmut Kohl to push up his country to ('soaring') heights. He has been in the saddle of chancellorship for the last 10 years. This is mainly due to his head and heart qualities. The Indian Government asserts that its political dialogue with Germany has reached an extraordinary level of depth and intensity after the reunification of the country.

India considers Germany as its most important and favored partner in Europe and also as a guarantor of open Europe market. Germany and India have traditionally enjoyed cordial relations. India was among the first few countries which recognized the Federal Republic of Germany. Over the years, there have been the highest level visits and a series of agreements contributing to deepening of its ties, especially in economic fields. Germany ranks as one of the leading partners of India in trade and has been an important source of investment and technology. India is also a major recipient of German bilateral development aid. India has been constructive and forms the foundation of a relationship between the two countries. It has been a fruitful experience for both as it has been marked more by the desire on the part of the two to work closely and benefit mutually than by other considerations or compulsions.

Soon after gaining independence, when India began its gigantic task of industrialization and setting up infrastructure, Germany extended its hand of cooperation. With a view to assist India in the expansion of its steel production, Germany offered valuable help both financial and technological in the building of the Rourkela Steel Works. This plant is to be modernized now with German assistance.

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, our first prime minister, used to call the new steel mills and projects in India as modern temples. German financial cooperation has been extensive which has had established projects in diverse fields such as infrastructure, including power and transportation, etc. Furthermore, a number of leading German companies in the field of electrical power generation, pharmaceuticals, and machine tools have been functioning successfully in India and today constitute importing units of our industry.

In a developing country of India's size and population, which has launched itself on the path of rapid socioeconomic development, the (need) of capital goods, technology, and finance are phenomenal. For Germany, the vast and growing Indian market has been commercially promising. For generations, German technology and engineering has been attractive for Indian entrepreneurs and consumers. German goods have long enjoyed reputation for qualitative excellence and durability. Technology transfer, therefore, one of the important areas in which India has looked up to Germany. Over the years, the number of German collaborations with India has been significant. Currently, there are about 2,000 agreements, including 200 joint ventures and large number of license agreements for transfer know-how. During 1989, Germany ranked first in terms of number of industrial investment approvals with volume exceeding Rupees 1,200 million. Since then, the position has shown upward trend with the total bilateral aid commitment of more than D.M. [German mark] 14 billion today. India continues to top the list on Germany's partners in development cooperation.

A new generation of cooperation project has emerged in such areas of watershed development, basic education, rural water supply, sanitation as well as integrated rural development. Germany is also this year's partner country at the Indian Engineering Trade Fair and Dr. Kohl's program will include a visit to this fair also along with the high-level delegation of German industry. It has sent the largest contingent of 80 companies.

Commentary Says Kohl's Visit To Focus on Trade
BK1802042693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ray Singh]

[Text] The German chancellor, Mr. Helmut Kohl's, visit to India beginning today is a significant event. Ostensibly, Mr. Kohl is to receive the Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1990. But in reality, his visit is to focus attention on exploring new avenues of mutual cooperation on bilateral and multilateral levels.

Chancellor Kohl's visit is the result of the priority that prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao has accorded to Germany. Germany was the first Western country that Mr. Rao visited after assuming office of prime minister. Mr. Rao's visit was a recognition of the political and economic potential of reunited Germany in the post Cold War world. Reunited Germany was also recognized as the best entry point for India in a united Europe. India was the first

country to recognize Germany or the FRG as an equal partner in the comity of nations when most of the European members of the Atlantic alliance and the United States were weighed down by memories of the bitter past. That, perhaps, explains why neither Germany's membership of the Atlantic alliance nor India's special relationship with the erstwhile Soviet Union adversely affected Indo-German relations.

Significantly, when Washington declined to cooperate or collaborate with the Indian public sector during the fifties and the sixties, Germany came forward with aid for the Roralpelar Steel Plant and for the Hindustan Aeronautics JF-24 aircraft project. While political and cultural relations between India and Germany have been consistently cordial, economic interchange had not lagged behind, though much remains to be done to expand this relationship both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Today, Germany is India's biggest trading partner in Europe. During 1992 Indo-German trade nearly touched the level of over 11,200 crore rupees. Though German investments in India has doubled during the last two years, it is negligible when compared with the total German investments overseas. So it is natural that Chancellor Kohl's visit is to focus on economic issues. This is evident from the large number of German industrialists and businessmen in his delegation.

Commentary Examines Trade Concessions to Nepal

BK1702055293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ratan Saldi]

[Text] Nepal traditionally depends on India for most of its petroleum supplies and other essential items like food grains, fertilizers, food, and coal, and has enjoyed a preferential trade regime in comparison to other neighbors. It has therefore accumulated a grossly negative balance of trade with New Delhi over the years. To reduce the gap, the prime ministers of the two countries agreed to amend the Trade and Transit Treaty to ease Nepalese exports to India during Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Kathmandu in October last.

As a follow-up of the decisions taken by the two premiers, the officials of the two countries worked out arrangements to amend Part 5 of the trade protocol. The new provisions which come into force from 1 April will considerably improve and simplify the export regime for goods manufactured in Nepal. The pro forma clearance system for preferential exports of Nepalese manufactured goods has been abolished and the internationally accepted practice of certificate of origin of goods incorporated. This will help Nepalese exporters and will cut procedural delays. For the eligibility of items manufactured in Nepal for preferential treatment, the condition of Nepalese in Indian content has been lowered from 55 to 50 percent together with Nepalese labor content.

More items manufactured in Nepal are likely to come in the list of items in joint duty-free and quota-free entry into India. Alcoholic liquids and beverages, soft drinks, and perfumes, and cosmetics with non-Nepali or non-Indian brand names, precious stones, cigarettes and tobacco, and synthetic and blended yarn and fabrics, however, come under a small negative list of items which will not enjoy the liberalized provisions.

Another major issue of importance for Nepal has been transit of its goods to Calcutta and Haldia ports and movement of its vehicles and goods from one part of the territory to another through India, as at many places direct access within the country is impossible because of difficult terrain. This issue was also discussed by the two prime ministers and India agreed to give liberal concessions.

Under the new arrangement signed yesterday, movement of Nepalese private commercial vehicles from the border to Calcutta or Haldia and back, and easy Nepal-to-Nepal movement of its vehicles through Indian territory will be allowed on the basis of a simple certificate from Nepal Government authorities. The concessions mark an important turning point in Indo-Nepal trade relations.

Editorial Hails Successful Prithvi Missile Test

BK1702100593 Delhi *INDIAN EXPRESS* in English
9 Feb 93 p 8

[Editorial: "An Invaluable Asset"]

[Text] Another test of the indigenously developed and manufactured surface-to-surface missile (SSM), Prithvi, has passed off successfully. The tenth so far, this one demonstrates yet again that the Indigenous Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) is on course for accomplishment. A part of the impressive collection of missiles developed by the scientists of IGMDP, the Prithvi plays a vital role. As a battlefield support weapon, the Prithvi would be an invaluable asset to any commander during hostilities. Designed to destroy crucial command structures as well as disorient formations in times of war, the Prithvi is a vital tactical weapon. In the trends current amongst military thinkers, missiles, and particularly SSMs, are central to the planning of operations. After 10 test launches it can safely be said that India is on its way to field an indigenous SSM. The number of launches, however, is no guarantee that the system is ready for deployment in service. After the scientists are satisfied with the results, it will then be the turn of the soldiers to try the missile. Any weapon system, after all, must be thoroughly tested before those in uniform feel confident about it. It may be a tank, an aircraft or a missile, the servicemen must ultimately give the signal that it works. Therefore, if more testing is required, so be it. A tried and tested system is preferable to one inducted in haste. This has been amply borne out by numerous instances.

The latest launch of the Prithvi—the 250-km range and 500-kilo payload version—has proved that the tractor-erector-launcher made by Bharat Earthmovers is capable of handling the entire range of functions of the missile. That is heartening, and takes care of at least one concern at

the development stage. It is essential now to put the missile through tests in conditions other than meteorologically placid. In battle there is no certainty that weather cooperates. Therefore, to fully test the missile it should be put through other launching conditions as well. That also will establish the efficacy of the guidance system works.

The vigour with which the IGMDP has been conducted is testimony to the fact that given the resolve, India is capable of achieving self-sufficiency. It is important to keep note of this factor, and more so because India is currently faced with sanctions under a dubious interpretation of the Missile Technology Control Regime. The Prithvi launch only goes to prove that India can pursue its missile programme, unmindful of sanctions, simply because it has been aware of the importance of not depending critically on purchase of the relevant technology and has never sought its acquisition surreptitiously. The vital need for India to induct the Prithvi is obvious. China and Pakistan have already deployed missiles of this kind. India's security, after all, is solely its concern.

Funds Allocated for Energy Resources Development

BK1702054893 Delhi *All India Radio Network* in English 0435 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The government is to start a \$430 million project for renewable energy resources development. Opening a seminar in New Delhi yesterday, the minister of state for non-conventional sources, Mr. Krishna Kumar, said the Global Environment Fund and the World Bank will help in the project. He said a feasibility report for a 30-megawatt solar power project near Jodhpur has been prepared. The minister said there is a great potential for joint cooperation between India and Germany in the power sector. The seminar on Business Potential in Environmental Technologies was jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries and the German Investment and Development Company.

Private Sector To Import Kerosene, Cooking Gas

BK1702091193 Delhi *Doordarshan Television Network* in English 1615 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Government has decided to allow the private sector to import kerosene and cooking gas to help boost the supply of these items. The petroleum minister, Captain Satish Sharma, announced this in New Delhi today. The present additional demands of the two products is estimated to be around one million tons each. Addressing a news conference, the minister said the parallel marketing will not affect the existing supply line. He also made it clear that there would be no change in the prices of kerosene sold through the fair price shops and LPG [Liquified Petroleum Gas] marketed by public-sector oil companies. Those having LPG connection will not be entitled to get kerosene through the fair price shops. Captain Sharma said the import on government account would not be reduced. He said the new scheme would work on the lines of the dual pricing for sugar. Explaining the rationale of the government's decision, the minister said

there is an urgent need to reduce the scope for diversion of kerosene from the public distribution system. Attention has to be focussed more on the requirements of the vulnerable sections particularly in the remote and the rural areas. He said malpractices in the use of LPG also needs to be checked. He expressed confidence that the parallel marketing system would help reduce blackmarketing for these two products. Answering a question, Captain Satish Sharma said the prices of the privately imported kerosene and cooking gas would depend on the market situation.

Iran

IRNA Previews Christopher's Mideast Tour

LD1702153693 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Athens, Feb. 17, IRNA—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins his first Middle East tour in Cairo Thursday, while the new White House administration is siding with the Zionist state against the Palestinians.

The main task of Christopher's visit is to try to revive the Arab-Israeli negotiations which have stalled after the expulsion of 415 Palestinians by the Zionist state last December. The U.S. official's tour is expected to include Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt. He is expected to visit Cairo twice at the beginning of the visit and at the end.

He will meet head of the Egyptian regime, Hosni Mubarak, Friday and discuss Arab and international issues, Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM reported. Christopher will also meet Palestinian leaders during his visit to the occupied al-Quds [Jerusalem].

American President Bill Clinton, who during his election campaigns, made strong pro-Israeli statements, has followed words with action. He appointed the former ambassador to the Zionist state Sam Lewis as the head of policy planning at the State Department and Martin Indyk, who once worked for a pro-Israeli group, as his special adviser on the Middle East, shattering any hopes of the White House playing an honest mediator between Arabs and Israel.

Christopher will arrive in the region hoping that the deportees' crisis is over and that consequently it is time for the negotiations to resume. It is of course in the interest of both Washington and Tel Aviv to assume that the backtracking by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for repatriation of all the deportees and accepting the deal over 100 of them has solved the whole problem. Israel and the U.S. want 100 deportees to return immediately and the rest within a one-year period.

Once again the U.S. has showed that when the Zionist state is concerned, Washington will prevent the implementation of any U.N. resolutions against it and even change it.

This U.S. support has encouraged the Yitzhaq Rabin's Zionist regime to proclaim that he would not hesitate to use the weapon of mass deportation again if he thought it necessary.

Washington is also trying to marginalize the deportee's issue, assuming that once the talks resume the cause of the Palestinian deportees would be forgotten. Egyptian columnist Salamah A. Salamah, noting this danger, called on the Arabs not to resume the talks.

"The (Arabs) should say no to the resumption of peace negotiations since there is no point in resuming such talks until the problem of the deportees is solved."

But it is feared that the the Arab world, divided as it is, might give different positions and emphasis on the issue opening the way for resumption of negotiations with the Zionist state, while the Palestinian deportees will perish on the icy hills in south Lebanon without food and medicine.

Commentary Marks 4th Anniversary of Rushdie Fatwa

LD1302215593 Tehran IRNA in English 1932 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the late Imam Khomeyni's historic fatwa against Salman Rushdie for authoring the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", the stage-managers of the apostate's propaganda campaign have embarked on yet another futile bid to avert the inevitable.

The apostate is being taken on a circus trip around some Western countries and is being interviewed by the imperialist-Zionist media of the atheist West as part of a bid to whip up anti-Iranian or more properly anti-Islamic sentiments.

Britain, which has made no secret of its animosity to the Islamic revolution and which has continued to shield the most wanted culprit from Islamic justice—albeit at the expense of the tax payers' money—is once again in the forefront of the new drama.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told Rushdie in an official meeting recently that resumption of full and "friendly" relations with Iran would not be possible until the lifting of the death decree by the Iranian Government.

The British want to believe that the Rushdie affair is linked directly to politics and in their naivety are insisting that the decree should be reversed by Iran because it was issued in Iran.

Rushdie, for his part prefers to link the decree to the Iranian Government rather than see it as a matter of the world of Islam. He admits that the late Imam Khomeyni besides being a religious leader was also the leader of the country, so according to the apostate's frame of mind, the issue is political and should be dealt with politically.

The claims of Rushdie and his British backers, however, run contrary to the determined support of religious leaders of the Muslim world for the decree issued by the father of

the Islamic revolution recognizing the Satanic author as an "apostate". They confirm the decree as being in accord with the Islamic sharia law and in line with holy Koran.

The historic verdict against the Indian born British apostate was passed by the imam on 14 February 1989 following the spilling of Muslim blood in India and Pakistan by "The Satanic Verses".

British attempts to obstruct the course of justice at that time had made the Islamic furious and led to Tehran's rupture of ties with London after the Majles served a week's notice to the British Government to reconsider its stance.

Later, ties were restored only when British leaders indicated their acceptance of the imam's verdict against the apostate.

According to Islamic jurisprudence the death verdict against an apostate born of Muslim parents—as in Rushdie's case—is "binding and irrevocable". Repentance in this particular case, it states, is a matter solely concerning divine mercy in the hereafter depending on the sincerity of intention involved.

The imam's fatwa was also endorsed by member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in their meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1989.

The blasphemous book fomented the wrath of one billion Muslims around the world and even the protest of Christian theologians including a criticism by the archbishop of Canterbury in August 1989. The archbishop of Poland also called the book "blasphemous".

However, officials of Britain and other Western countries, in spite of the stress of religious centers and religious figures that the book blasphemed Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], insist to use the issue as a "political card" against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As part of their wild accusations they allege that "Iran has embarked on an ambitious arms buildup programme", "is interfering in the internal affairs of regional countries" and is "violating human rights".

Last Wednesday [10 February], the chairman of the Italian-based human rights organization told "LA REPUBBLICA" daily that Salman Rushdie is a victim of human rights violation.

Strange indeed. These self-styled advocates of human rights never responded when the blood of Muslims was shed in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other Islamic states around the world because of the publication of the blasphemous book.

British officials in charge of foreign affairs have put the Rushdie affair on the foreign policy agenda and intend to exploit the satanic issue at international forums.

One day before the apostate met Douglas Hogg, the British secretary of state for external affairs, a spokesman said the British Foreign Ministry has no role in relation to Rushdie's external trips, despite the fact that Francis Tusosa the

head of a "Committee for Rushdie's Defence" acknowledge the support of the British Foreign Ministry for Rushdie's trips abroad.

Rushdie himself in an article which he recently wrote for THE NEW YORK TIMES, disclosed that the British Foreign Ministry had given him assurance that his trips are supported by British Government.

In other words, it means that Hogg's meeting with Rushdie last week on the eve of the 4th anniversary of the late imam's decree, is bound to affect the prospect of relations between Britain and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The heavy burden of spendings for shielding the sentenced apostate from justice is costing the British Government millions of pounds per annum and has even caused Prince Charles and members of the British Parliament to complain about the astronomical cost of maintaining Rushdie.

Whatever short term "political benefits" London's vain support for Rushdie may have for that country, in the long run, the once great colonial Britain will be more and more exposed as an anti-Islamic and hostile country to the world Muslims.

British statesmen should have long realised that the late imam's decree on Rushdie being an "apostate" is not revocable and is still valid after four years.

As for the apostate himself, he is nothing more than political card for his supposed backers in their propaganda campaign against Iran and Islam and one day will be discarded as a rotten piece to the dustbin of history.

Rushdie, who changed his place 56 times within a mere six months after receiving his sentence from Tehran, admits that his first reaction for the decree in 1989 was "I am a dead man". How true!

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Assembly of Experts

LD1702222693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the Leadership's Assembly of Experts on Wednesday evening. [passage omitted] The president said that the enemies' various plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran are due to the nature of Iran's Islamic revolution and their fear of the holy, spiritual, and independence-seeking aspirations of the revolution. He added: Our people and officials must be aware and alert and neutralize the enemies' plots.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also described as very positive the trend in the economic growth of the nation and the implementation of infrastructural tasks to support domestic industry, reduce imports, provide energy, and provide domestic needs. He further elaborated the positive consequences of a single exchange rate in the society. [passage omitted]

Montazeri Denies Media Reports of Arrest

LD1802150493 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Qom, Feb. 18, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Thursday denied claims made by the enemies of the Islamic revolution that he and his relatives had been assaulted and said "I am quite all right and doing research on Islamic sciences." The ayatollah made the remarks in an interview with IRNA at his residence in this holy city in response to rumors spread by foreign mass media and Iranian fugitives abroad that he and some of his relatives had been arrested.

Referring to foreign media claims, Ayatollah Montazeri, 71, said "they are enemies and I have nothing to do with them. At any rate, I will continue my teaching, no matter if a certain element wants to make mischief."

Ayatollah Montazeri reiterated "I have always been, and still am, a supporter of the revolution. I have never turned my back on it, nor have I accepted claims of foreigners and enemies. For instance, I turned down a request by (U.N. human rights envoy) Galindo Pohl to meet me."

"Thank God, I am in good physical condition and what is said by foreign media is not true," the ayatollah said.

While Ayatollah Montazeri was talking to IRNA, as usual a group of people and theological students were waiting outside his home to meet him. After the interview, the ayatollah left the room to visit other guests and say his afternoon prayers.

Ahmad Montazeri, the son of the ayatollah who lives with him, told IRNA that his father had public meetings with people in the afternoon and spent the rest of the day on research and translating religious texts from Arabic into Persian. He said Ayatollah Montazeri is solely interested in studying and teaching religious sciences and that he usually tells those requesting a meeting with him for non-scientific discussions that he is no longer fond of political issues.

The claims of the ayatollah's arrest was raised by foreign media after a morning Persian daily criticized some of the remarks he had made at one of his classes.

UN Envoy Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD1202184093 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] United Nations HQ. (New York), Feb. 12, IRNA—Iranian Envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharazi reported nine new cases of cease-fire violations by Iraqi forces in Iranian borders between October 23-December 17 to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali here Thursday.

Sending two separate letters to the secretary general, Kharazi referred to the cases, in his first letter, as construction of bunker and checkpoint, border crossing and penetrating of Iranian territory in the 'Hemad-Shahab' sentry post on the map of Meymeh River.

In his second letter, the Iranian envoy informed the U.N. chief of the Iraqi forces violations as bunker construction in Khosravi region, western Iran, and penetration of Iranian territories in Qasr-e Shirin on November 14 and December 17 respectively.

Two other letters were earlier delivered to the U.N. chief by Kharazi informing him of five cases of cease-fire violation by the Iraqi forces between October 6-15.

Iraqi Soldiers To Return Home 18 Feb

LD1702175793 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—One thousand Iraqi militarymen who crossed the border into Iran during the Persian Gulf war in 1991, are to return to their homeland Thursday.

Iran has informed the Middle East representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of the return of the said militarymen.

Last November some 400 Iraqi militarymen, who fell into the same category, returned to their country.

Meanwhile, an Iranian official in charge of Iraqi war prisoners said a large number of Iranian POWs were still in Iraq and that the Iraqi Government has yet to give a positive response in this regard.

He hoped that international bodies and Iraqi officials would take due steps for repatriation of the remaining Iranian POWs.

Fate of POW's in Iraq Discussed With ICRC

LD1802094593 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Representatives of Iran and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) here Wednesday discussed the fate of the remaining Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) in Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Abu-Torabi, the leader's representative in charge of the released POWs said there were many evidences proving the existence of hundreds of Iranian POWs in Iraq that Baghdad could not deny.

In case the ICRC worked for the release of other Iranian POWs, the issue would be settled thoroughly, stressed Abu-Torabi.

ICRC representative in the Middle East and North Africa Michel Cagneux said that Iraq still held hundreds of Iranian POWs and that the committee was trying to get a list from Iraqi officials.

Tehran Ready To Help Resolve Afghan Problems

LD1202164693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] In response to a request, Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon sent a message to Rabbani, the

head of the Afghan Government, announcing Iran's readiness to help resolve problems of Afghanistan. The message said: As always, Iran is prepared to support any activity and effort toward finding a solution to the current problems of Afghanistan.

Afghan Refugees Continue To Return Home

LD1602175793 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Semnan, Feb. 16, IRNA—Since the collapse of the Marxist regime in Afghanistan last April, some 400,000 Afghan refugees in Iran had left for their homeland, said an Interior Ministry official here today.

Director-general of expatriate and refugee affairs, Ahmad Hoseyni, who was addressing a seminar on issues in relation to Iranian towns and cities that have hosted foreign refugees, said the return home of the Afghan refugees currently continues. He added that new return routes across the Iran-Afghanistan border would open next month which would speed up the return home of the remaining number of Afghan refugees in Iran.

Hoseyni estimated that the return home of the rest of the Afghan refugees in Iran would take another two years.

He said efforts are underway to assemble refugees from remote geographical locations at established centers in towns and cities and in some 10 refugee camps, each with a capacity of 30,000, that are to be erected during the second five-year national development plan.

According to the official already 1,200,000 Iraqi refugees have returned home, but another 500,000 who crossed the border into Iran both before and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution and during the war years continue to be in Iran.

All Iraqis arriving in Iran in the wake of the 1991 Iraq-American war have long since left for their home country.

Currently 17 organizations and ministries offer various types of services to foreign nationals in Iran which are expected to be integrated into the 'Expatriate and Foreign Refugee Affairs Organization of Iran', with one branch office in each province.

Recently representatives of 12 international humanitarian agencies met in Tehran and declared their readiness to offer services in the interest of refugees in Iran. A consortium of those agencies is to be established in Iran, perhaps shortly, to coordinate their various future activities.

Refugees Without ID Cards To Return

LD1802111293 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan Prov.), Feb. 18, IRNA—About 300,000 Afghan refugees scattered in various parts of Khorasan Province without personal identification cards are soon to be returned to their home country. Governor General of the Province Esmail Mofidi said at an assembly of police chiefs of various parts of the province

here today that the project is now the number one task of the law enforcement forces in the province.

An Interior Ministry regulation adopted some years ago required Afghan refugees to report to the Iranian Interior Ministry or other government organizations in the provinces and apply for universal identification cards. The group of 300,000 above are among those who have disregarded the requirement.

The governor general of the province also added that in order to improve the fight against drug traffickers in the province aircraft control squads would shortly be formed. He said between mid-January and mid-February 40 drug traffickers had been either arrested or killed in various parts of the province.

Seminar Discusses Passports, Border Security

LD1702165193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking today at a seminar on passports and borders, organized by the intelligence minister, First Vice President Habibi stressed the necessity of revising the laws on issuing passports and visas.

He pointed out the importance of intelligence systems for controlling borders and also when diplomatic measures are not very effective. He described as necessary the training of skilled manpower in this field.

In a speech at the seminar, Intelligence Minister Fallahian said that safeguarding borders and controlling traffic constitute the most necessary actions in maintaining the country's security.

Merchant Shipping Line to Azerbaijan Begins

LD1702135093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] A shipping line between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan began operating with the departure of the first passenger ship from the Iranian port of Anzali to the port of Baku last night. The ship, the Mirza Kuchak Khan, started its first sea voyage on this route at 2300, according to an IRNA report.

The passengers on the trip included shipping officials, the families of martyrs, Majles deputies, and local government officials from the port of Anzali.

With a capacity of 450 passengers, the Mirza Kuchak Khan travels between the ports of Anzali and Baku twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. The trip takes about 10 hours.

Annual Trade Exchanges With Turkey Increase

LD1102172493 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Heavy Industry Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan said here today that

the 11th meeting of Tehran-Ankara Joint Economic Commission resulted in success and complete understanding between the two countries.

Returning from Ankara where the session was held, Nezhad-Hoseyniyan said annual bilateral trade exchanges in 1992 increased by 40 percent and the trade imbalance was relatively removing between the two sides.

Trade exchanges between the two countries reached dlr. [dollars] 800 million in 1992 from the preceding year's dlr. 550 million.

On the purchase of oil from Iran, the minister said Turkey has fulfilled its commitment in this regard and its volume of oil purchase from Iran is expected to rise in future.

He said President Turgut Ozal stressed on entry of Iranian goods on the Turkish market.

Nezhad-Hoseyniyan also disclosed that Iranian and Turkish export development banks have reached agreement to provide dlr. 25 million credit for exporters in the two countries as part of efforts to boost bilateral trade. He added that Iranian and Turkish Chambers of Commerce will hold a seminar in Turkey in June to accelerate mutual trade exchanges.

Velayati Leaves on 3-Nation Latin American Tour *LD1502152293 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 15 Feb 93*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Brazil Monday morning at the first leg of his week-long three-nation tour to three Latin American countries which will take him to Brazil, Mexico and Cuba.

Velayati, heading a high-ranking eco-political delegation, is to hold talks with Brazilian senior officials on bilateral relations and joint cooperation in international scenes.

Meanwhile, Irano-Brazil Joint Economic Commission will be held during Velayati's visit to Brasilia.

Meets With Brazilian Counterpart

WA1802124893

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Brazil, including his talks with Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, see the Brazil section of the 18 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Commentary Assesses Relations

LD1602163693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, has begun a week-long visit to the Latin American countries at the head of a high-ranking political

delegation. During his trip, Dr. Velayati will be visiting Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico. This will be his second visit to that region within the past two years. Dr. Velayati's first visit to Latin America as the Islamic Republic's first foreign minister, took place in the month of Khordad last year [month beginning 22 May 1992], during which he visited Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina and examined ways of expanding Iran's relations with those countries. Dr. Velayati's visit to Latin America last year involved the signing of agreements which led to the expansion of ties in the political, commercial, and cultural spheres. For example, Iran and Brazil agreed to abolish diplomatic and service visas and also to increase trade. Regarding the growth of Brazilian exports to Iran, agreement was reached to increase the amount from \$250 million to \$750 million.

Iran's attention to the Latin American countries with regard to the promotion of ties in various political, economic, and cultural spheres stems from one of the foreign policy principles of post-Islamic revolution Iran is to give priority to relations with the Third World countries. To that end it constantly endeavors to obtain its requirements from those countries, and in return to meet their requirements with Iran's export commodities, as far as possible.

At present, Iran's cooperation with the Third World countries, in view of these countries' common problems, is of special importance. In view of the international developments which are increasingly drawing the industrial countries together in terms of cooperation, cooperation between the Third world countries could likewise pave the way for their effective participation on the international scene, by virtue of strengthening the bonds between them. This factor will boost cooperation between the Third World countries within the framework of South-South relations, and reduce the possibility of pressure by the industrial countries of the North on the countries of the South.

Madagascar's Rabonuoro Meets Velayati, Besharati

LD1302171993 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Madagascar counterpart Seze Rabonuoro in their meeting here today called for a basic change in the process of policy making at the international organizations.

"At the present, international organizations are inclined towards the big powers and this trend should be changed," agreed the two officials, adding that Third World countries should take a serious stance in this connection.

Velayati also reiterated Iran's opposition towards the racial policies of the South African Government, and hope that positive turn of events would push apartheid in Africa into oblivion. They also explored grounds for promotion of Tehran-Antananarivo cooperation.

In another meeting today Rabonuoro held talks with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Besharati counted Iran's foreign policy principles as peace, respect for other countries' sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs.

The so-called new international order, he added, is actually a cover for justifying the big powers' interference in other countries' affairs. By exploiting the Soviet collapse, big powers are trying to impose the so-called new international order to secure their own interests in the world.

Joint Statement Issued

LD1602171893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] At the end of a trip by the foreign minister of Madagascar to our country, the two countries published a joint statement.

The statement emphasizes the need for the expansion of bilateral relations and supports the liberation and antiracial movements in South Africa and calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The two countries also condemn the civil war in Afghanistan and the racial genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and call on the international community and the UN Security Council for immediate action in the Balkans.

The two sides support the struggles of the Palestinian people and condemn their expulsion from their own lands and call for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

Finance Minister Says Banks To Sell Dollars

LD1502142493 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh said here Sunday that as of the next Iranian calendar year (March 21) the Iranian banks will sell dollars to buyers for certain purposes which, he said, would help stabilize the foreign currency market in Iran.

The system, he said, will be a form of advancement purchase of foreign currencies at current rates on the basis of which buyers will be able to finalize their foreign transactions.

Nurbakhsh said the banking system in Iran would periodically announce the parity rate of the dollar and of other leading currencies of the world which, he said, would prevent inflationary impacts on the home market.

As the projected single-parity system will take effect on March 21 the administration will offer all its foreign exchange to the market. Nurbakhsh said that it seems the demand for the foreign currencies for both the public and the private sector will be far lower than the foreign currencies in the market. He said that a committee was drafting operation practices for the banks to ensure their speedy operation.

In the 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] budget the total foreign budgets of the government and government affiliate agencies is less than dlr. [dollars] 7.5 billion, and about dlr. 2.5 billion will be fed to the market from the non-oil revenues.

The minister said he forecasted a surplus foreign exchange in the market of between dlr. 2 and 3 billion which, he said, would be sold to the private sector as they will demand.

Nurbakhsh said that the likelihood of any substantial disparity between the official rate of the dollar and its free market rate is almost nil. He said the agencies needing the dollar would be given dollars at rls [rials] 1,000 to the dollar.

He said the system practically controls the demand for the dollar and will thereby stabilize the parity rate of the dollar in the Iranian markets.

In the event of any disparity, he said, between the parity rate of the dollar and the Iranian rial the government agencies would have to economize on their dollar expenditures.

He said the adoption of the figure rls 1,000 to the dollar for the 1372 national budget is a set figure for arriving at the rial values in the national budget since, he observed, the ceiling of the national budget cannot be subject to other variables.

The minister said that an effort has been made to ensure that the administration's purchasing power at the market will be lower than the current parity rate of the dollar so that as a result of diminishing demand the parity rate of the dollar will tend to dwindle.

He said wherever the rates are not realistic economic transactions will tend to be made on the basis of the exchange of promissory notes which practice, he said, is now gradually becoming obsolete. Transactions on the basis of realistic market status, he said, would naturally serve to promote the national economy.

Previously, he said, producers and manufacturers went ahead in their business planning in a total blackout and without any clear picture of the market situation, but under the new conditions the producers and manufacturers will be a lot more prepared to make business decisions on the basis of known facts.

Nurbakhsh said that as far as the private sector is concerned the principal problem was the unpredictable future developments which, he said, have not largely been solved. In fact, he said, as the system becomes operational as of March 21 all economic levers shall play their due role which, he said, is the best form of support for the private sector.

Elsewhere in the interview the economy and financial affairs minister of Iran said: "The administration supports any enterprise that is consistent with the policies and the economic laws of the state. The extension of tax and tariff

exemptions, and payment of credits and banking facilities with lower service charges are among examples of that kind of support."

He added, "the fixing of a rial ceiling in the budget for buying foreign currencies by the government agencies is in fact one way of controlling purchases by those agencies, while the private sector can buy foreign exchange at its realistic rates on the basis of which to promote its business activities."

He further continued, "for the time being the only checking system of the administration is in the form of levying tariff charges on imports. Since policies and practices are clear in that respect exporters and producers can adopt their policies with confidence and on the basis of their capital returns."

"On the basis of the five-year national development plan the administration was authorized to utilize foreign credits for carrying out certain projects. Those credits are, in fact, obligations which are partly paid off as they mature periodically."

"At the turn of the current Iranian calendar year 1371 (March 21, 1992) those obligations stood at about dlr. 30 billion which comprised the entirety of the credits received for procuring equipments for development plans and for basic staples."

"Of the said total dlr. five billion will have been paid off by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 1993), and in the upcoming years the balance will gradually be paid off upon maturity of each installment."

"The administration had to choose either of the alternatives in relation to the question of whether or not it should rely on foreign sources. The first alternative was to wait until a future date when the national revenue is sufficiently enough for financing some of the development projects, and in the meanwhile continue to import the products that might otherwise be produced by those projects. The second alternative was to rely on foreign sources for investment on development projects and to pay off debts by drawing on the output of those projects. The administration opted for the second alternative which sounds more logical and promising. The policy has worked perfectly well."

"By adopting that policy the administration, in fact, economized on time and prevented the loss of time in the process of planning."

"Foreign partners in joint ventures are mainly from Germany, Japan, Italy, and France and the interest rates for the resources received are consistent with the prevailing rates throughout the world."

"The second national development plan should emphasize investments that supplement present investments, that is investments that will improve the efficiency of the previous investments."

"The proportion of ownership at joint investments is 51 percent by Iran and 49 percent by the foreign partner, which may differ according to individual project. For

projects involving complex industrial or technological formulations the High Investment Council of the state may authorize modifications in that proportion."

"The administration has decided to offer the shares of the manufacturing enterprises to the private sector. By the private sector is meant every real or corporate body that can purchase shares without legal restrictions."

"During the past few years the administration has collected more tax than the national budget anticipated. It is expected that this year (ending on March 20) the administration's taxation will be about rls 200 billion over and above the figure anticipated figure in the 1371-budget. On the whole taxation average a yearly increase of about 40 percent during the first national development plan."

"As the result of a computerized taxation system which is expected to become operational later in 1993 the Economy and Financial Affairs Ministry will be able to arrive at the true earnings of all persons and will tax them accordingly."

"In the new taxation law of the state the administration has revised and amended the previous regulations to promote the economic and business activities of businessmen. In production and manufacturing areas tax exemptions even for as many as 12 years have been anticipated."

Towards the conclusion of his interview the finance minister indicated that the Islamic Republic would continue her adopted path to an eventual economic self-sufficiency.

Oil Minister Discusses Prices, Production

NC1602083793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Feb 93 p 15

[First installment of a two-part "exclusive" interview with Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh by unidentified staff correspondent in Tehran "during the auspicious Ten Days of Dawn" ceremonies held between 1 February and 10 February]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] One of the main problems for the Petroleum Ministry and the entire country, especially in formulating the budget, is the level of our foreign exchange, the key source of which is our oil income. Can you explain what mechanism Iran uses to achieve a measure of stability regarding its oil exports? Where does OPEC stand on this issue?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God. As you mentioned, during 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] the parity rate for foreign exchange will float and non-oil exports will influence exporters. Oil income, whether against the dollar or the rial, will play an important role in the budget. Therefore, the more realistic and accurate next year's forecast, the more important will be its role in the 1372 budget.

This means that if income is estimated unrealistically, with either too much optimism or too much pessimism, we will have a rigid and impractical budget. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the proportion of oil income in the 1372 budget?

[Aqazadeh] In 1372, 2.7 million barrels of crude oil per day are expected to be exported at a rate of \$17 per barrel. This will result in foreign exchange earnings of approximately \$18 billion. This is apart from the 190,000 barrels allocated for the import of products. All of these figures will be calculated at the floating rate.

Therefore, in next year's budget, oil income in rials will account for 70 percent of the government's income. Our current OPEC quota is 3.5 million barrels. If we were to export 2.7 million of that number, 800,000 barrels would be used for our refineries; that is, for domestic consumption. Therefore, for our current situation and our OPEC quota, this budget would be practical.

[Correspondent] What is the mechanism employed to stabilize the production ceiling in OPEC so that we can achieve a flat rate of \$21 per barrel?

[Aqazadeh] First, the Islamic Republic of Iran can produce 4 million barrels of oil per day. This number will reach 4.5 million barrels per day by the end of 1372. Therefore, it is not too difficult for us to maintain a production of 3.5 million barrels per day. Of course, we will have new quotas in view of current demands. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Oil and economic experts say that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia are the two main bastions of OPEC and efforts are being made to bring these two countries closer on the subject of oil. How far has this progressed?

[Aqazadeh] We believe all members have a role in OPEC and all have an equal voice in the organization. Some countries have a greater influence on the market because they have more production capabilities.

However, a consensus has to be reached by all members. Of course, if the main producers of OPEC reach a consensus, it would have an immediate impact on the market. This is why the OPEC chief visited Iran and we established contacts with oil ministers from other countries.

For example, as soon as it was announced that Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to reduce their production by 1 million barrels per day, oil prices soared by \$1 per barrel within 24 hours. Of course, we expect them to rise further, especially after the OPEC session, when the decisions are announced officially and this lower production ceiling is implemented.

[Correspondent] What is your proposal on reducing the production ceiling?

[Aqazadeh] We proposed a cut in the ceiling in proportion to the market conditions by linking it to costs. Saudi Arabia has proposed a reduction of 1 million barrels per day, but we suggested 1.5 million. However, if reducing the ceiling by 1 million barrels per day can suitably raise oil prices, we will agree. If it does not, we will demand a greater reduction.

[Correspondent] Who is currently getting Iraq's quotas?

[Aqazadeh] Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have the lion's share in production. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Some say some OPEC countries are calling for greater quotas. Are the current criteria for allocating quotas just? For example, does Saudi Arabia actually need all the income it gets from all its production? There are countries that need more foreign exchange than Saudi Arabia and they produce less oil, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Aqazadeh] All OPEC countries say they need to produce more. However, we have a voluntary system in OPEC. Some countries have already produced their maximum capacity. This means that if demand rises, these countries could be allocated a higher production quota but would not be able to produce more. Other OPEC countries have extra capacity, so it was decided to resolve this matter within OPEC. When demand increases, the countries with extra capacity are given higher quotas.

Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been very self-restrained and generous and has been able to obtain quotas in accordance with its production capacity. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You mentioned production capacity for oil. In the period of the protracted war, during which the enemy dealt the greatest blows to the oil, gas and petrochemical industry, one of the main issues, and the Petroleum Ministry's key activity, was the construction and reconstruction of the industries. What work has been done so far?

[Aqazadeh] This is an important question, and I consider it necessary to explain this in greater detail. When the war began, our efforts were to maintain the flow of oil exports so that swift reconstruction could take place with regard to the losses sustained during the war. After the war ended, we had two major tasks: first, to initiate reconstruction and construction projects; and second, to compensate for time and opportunities lost during the war.

During the war, we did not get the time or opportunity to invest in the oil industry. Despite all this, we continued our activities in the fields of oil exploration, technology, drilling of wells, expansion of new oil fields, and prospecting.

[Correspondent] I believe the Petroleum Ministry was active in construction and reconstruction even during the war, but it did not achieve its expected goals. Is this true?

[Aqazadeh] Yes. We should have embarked on reconstruction as well as a streamlining procedures. It was important that during the first Five-Year Plan we took massive steps in the oil industry. This priority was reflected in the first plan. The president also insisted that this sector be activated in view of its increasing value and importance in the country's economy as a whole. In 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] our production was approximately 2.5 million barrels per day in spite of the damage inflicted on oil installations.

We, therefore, initiated a swift reconstruction scheme in the oil industry in addition to expanding our oil resources. We set a long-term goal for ourselves to attain a ceiling of 4.5 million barrels per day. The figure was actually 5 million, but we kept a margin for flexibility.

As for drilling for oil, we embarked on reactivating the existing oil rigs, a total of 17. We increased their number to 42 and even leased some rigs. There are currently 60 oil rigs operating and the meterage [preceding word in English] reached in 1370-71 [year beginning 21 March 1992-93] is considerable. In 1370, 270,000 meters of drilling was carried out. That total exceeds that done by 43 foreign companies in the years prior to the revolution.

In 1371 this figure rose to 300,000 meters. The work in the past 10 months was a major and fundamental achievement in the field of drilling. The 300,000 meters we are drilling this year is being done entirely by our own personnel.

Another project we implemented in oil production was the very important gas injection project. The injection of gas will enable us to have 17 billion barrels of a secondary and tertiary batch of crude, as a result of which we will be able to produce extra oil.

[Correspondent] Is this within the framework of the plan to "maximize production from reserves?"

[Aqazadeh] Yes. The projects in Gachsaran, Marun, Bibi Hakimeh, (Kerenj), and Kupal were also gas injection projects. In the past few years, we have been able to inject 1 billion cubic feet of gas into the Gachsaran reserves per day, 750 million cubic feet in Marun, and 120 million cubic feet in the (Kerenj) reserves. We were, therefore, able to reach the desired results.

[Correspondent] Could you please elaborate on this project for our readers who may not be aware of the technicalities and complexities of petroleum engineering issues? And, at what level of specialization is it being carried out?

[Aqazadeh] Most of the world's oil reserves are subterranean and cannot be exploited because of the pressure applied on the oil deposits in the extraction process. [passage omitted]

A gas injection project implies that a large amount of gas is injected into reserves to raise the pressure, which results in the oil spouting out rapidly from wells. [passage omitted]

Reports on OPEC Meeting in Vienna

LD1802115993 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 1030 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Returning from the OPEC meeting, Oil Minister Aqazadeh told our correspondent that to prevent a drop in oil prices, the Vienna conference has agreed to reduce the oil production ceiling from 25 million to 23.58 million barrels per day [mbpd]. This decision is to be implemented for a four-month period beginning 1 March.

Aqazadeh said that Iran's oil production capacity, which stands around 4.2 mbpd, will increase to 4.5 mbpd by next

spring. However Iran's current OPEC quota is 3.49 mbpd and this will come down to 3.34 mbpd under the new quota system by a daily reduction of 150,000 bpd. The oil minister also said another agreement reached in Vienna was to place Kuwait in the quota system with a 1.6 mbpd production.

Aqazadeh hoped that reducing the oil production ceiling of OPEC member countries will increase oil prices in the world markets.

Results of OPEC Meeting, New Quotas Noted

LD1702151193 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1421 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Vienna, Feb. 17, IRNA—Ministers from 12 member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reached an agreement here Tuesday to cut production from March 1993 to 23.582 million b/d [barrels per day]. The decision was taken by tenth meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee (MMC) which was held February 13-16.

Kuwait accepted its new quota of 1.6 million b/d after securing an allocation in parity with other countries with similar production capacity for third quarter and recognition that 1.6 million allocated by OPEC to Kuwait was a substantial reduction from its actual production.

A new monitoring committee was also created to ensure member states comply with the accord. The monitoring committee members are, 'Abdallah Salim al-Bardi of Libya, 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Attiyah of Qatar and the OPEC secretary general.

The new production ceiling for members states are as follow, Algeria 0.732 million b/d, Gabon 0.281, Indonesia 1.317, Iran 3.340, Iraq 0.400, Kuwait 1.600, Libya 1.350, Nigeria 1.780, Qatar 0.364, Saudi Arabia 8.000, United Arab Emirates 2.161 and Venezuela 2.257.

Commentary Welcomes Cuts in Oil Production

LD1702133893 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 1104 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day, dear compatriots. After four days of intense negotiations the oil ministers of 12 OPEC member countries ended their work last night after setting the organization's production ceiling for the second quarter of the Christian year 1993 and fixing the production quotas of the member countries for the same period. The OPEC session's closing statement set the production of oil-producing countries in the second quarter of the current Christian year at 23.582 million barrels per day [bpd].

The OPEC ministerial supervisory committee session was held at a time when oil is selling at a price very much below the OPEC bench price in spite of the winter season, when demands for energy increase. For this very reason, the Venezuelan head of the OPEC session toured the member

countries to lobby for reducing OPEC production by one million barrels. [passage omitted]

According to the new quota, Kuwait, which intended to raise its production to 2.1 million bpd during the second quarter of the current Christian year in order to make up for the costs of the Persian Gulf war, accepted a production ceiling of 1.6 million bpd. Saudi Arabia, which previously produced 8.4 million bpd, has also agreed to a reduction of 400,000 bpd. The Islamic Republic of Iran, too, by decreasing its daily production by 150,000 bpd, will be producing a quota equivalent to 3.340 million bpd. The rest of the members have also accepted a reduction in the volume of OPEC's production in accordance with their own levels of production.

Economic analysts believe that the approval of OPEC's new ceiling will help improve international oil prices provided the members of OPEC adhere to the quotas that have been agreed upon and observe their commitment.

At OPEC's latest session all the members stressed that a decrease in the organization's production was the main step toward reaching the base price of \$21 a barrel. In this respect, the members again proved the solidarity that exists between OPEC's member-countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has consistently tried to stabilize a fair oil price, is right now producing in accordance with its allotted quota. This is because we believe that oil is a national asset that belongs to all generations, and OPEC's member countries have a responsibility for both the present and the future generations of their countries.

Horizontal Oil Well Operational in Gachsaran

LD1702165493 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Gachsaran (Khuzestan Prov.) Feb. 17, IRNA—A public relations officer of the Iranian oil company says that horizontal drilling for oil has been successfully undertaken here. He says one oil well drilled with the horizontal system in Gachsaran is now operational. Horizontal drilling is applied largely for oil wells with low oil head or where rocks are extremely compact.

The method allows more intakes of oil into the main well for pumping out. It also ensures wider surface contact with the bottom rock, prevents the infiltration into the well of unwanted water and gas, offers a longer life for and better output of the well and lower maintenance costs while it also takes a shorter drilling time. Additional wells are being drilled horizontally in Gachsaran.

The oil company official told IRNA that the horizontal drilling system will also help the company economize on its dollar expenditures for drilling.

Pakistan

Newspaper Profiles CIA Murder Suspect

BK1802135093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
18 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Quetta—In early 1989 a small group of students at the Department of English at the Baluchistan University, Quetta, shouted "Death to America" and one of them fired shots in the air as an American professor specially (?picked) by the department to deliver a lecture on T.S. Eliot, proceeded into the lecture hall. The embarrassed English language teachers at the Department were forced to call off the lecture and the American professor left town the next day, according to former students and teachers at the Department.

The young man who fired those shots and joined in the "Death to America; death to CIA" chorus was the 25-year-old Aimal Kanshi, now a subject of an international manhunt, for his alleged indiscriminate shooting outside the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley on January 25. Two senior intelligence analysts of the CIA were killed and three others received gunshot wounds during the incident.

Aimal's teachers and the students, in their interviews with this correspondent, all felt that Aimal transformed from an innocent English language student in 1987 to a short-tempered, angry young man in 1989 when he used strong-arm tactics against senior teachers. The teachers in turn virtually rid themselves of Kanshi by passing him in the third division on the MA English examinations.

"He blushed like a maid," said a senior teacher describing his early days at the Department. Another teacher said: "He was the most shy student, who would hardly talk and would not be seen at the campus after university hours."

"Since his early days Aimal only had a few friends. He was good at studies in school and during the early days in college," said a close family member who asked not to be named. Investigations made by this correspondent in Quetta showed that Aimal joined the St. Francis Grammar School, Quetta in Class I in 1970. He never failed at school and passed his matriculation in the first division in 1980.

A friend who knew Aimal from his school days said: "Although his father was a very rich man, Aimal never showed off and always behaved well with his teachers and friends."

Interviews revealed that Aimal neither smoked nor drank before he left the country in 1991.

"He used to come to college regularly, but Aimal always stayed away from extra-curricular activities," said one of his friends from the Degree Science College, Quetta.

Kanshi is probably the most respected Pashtun tribe of Balochistan. A majority of the male members of the tribe are educated and live in the cities. The late Abdullah Jan Kanshi, father of Aimal Kanshi, had inherited a large fortune

in the shape of land in Quetta. His fortune multiplied as the price of land rocketed in the city.

Abdullah Jan Kansi, founded Pakistan Particle Board in Karachi in the early seventies. Later he moved into the construction business and at the same time went into the hotel trade. Today, his sons run the Faran Hotel and more than a dozen shops on the ground floor of that hotel. They also own the Novelty Hotel on Mission Road. Dozens of shops form the ground floor of the hotel where the joint family household of the Kansis is also situated.

The huge house overlooking fruit orchards has four living quarters of four bedrooms each. Abdullah Jan Kansi wanted all his four sons to live in the same premises. His eldest son, Mir Hamidullah Kansi, a respected builder shares his time between his house in Karachi and the family residence in Quetta. Mir Waiz and Mir Naseebullah Kansi also live permanently in Quetta and look after the vast hotel, construction and fruit businesses of the family.

One four bedroom portion in this sprawling Kansi family house in Quetta is waiting for its lone occupant since Mir Aimal Kansi abandoned the luxurious life, a battery of servants and a huge family fortune for a single room apartment in Reston, USA in 1991.

Aimal was the only son from his father's second wife, but he was equally loved by his step-mother, six half-sisters and three half-brothers, according to a family member. After the death of his father in September 1991, Aimal received his share of the cash and the property left to him by his father.

Like all others, his eldest brother Hamidullah Kansi was also baffled when Aimal announced his intention to leave the country for the USA soon after the death of their father in 1991.

"I wanted him to run for the Superior Services examinations and had given him the books needed for preparation," said Hamidullah Kansi, now the head of the family.

"I don't know what was wrong with him but I spotted him twice talking to himself and pacing up and down in his bedroom during the same period," informed Hamidullah. "I tried my best but I knew that once he had decided on a course of action no one on earth could stop him from going to the States."

Interviews with family members, friends, teachers and security officials confirm that a major transformation in Aimal's personality was observed after late 1988. There is no evidence to suggest that he was a political activist, but friends and teachers say that he was close to a particular group of students, who were affiliated with the Pashtun Students Organisation (PSO), the student wing of Mahmood Khan Achakzai's Pakhtoon Khwa Awami Milli Party (PKAMP).

"He was a patient listener of our political ideology which was heavily influenced by the revolution in Afghanistan. Aimal never accepted my offers to work in the front-line," said Nasrullah Khan Achakzai, the former leader of the

PSO at the English Department of Balochistan University and a close friend of Aimal Kansi.

Nasrullah, who now practises law in the lower courts in Quetta, said that at the time we firmly believed that "the CIA had killed 15 million innocent people in Afghanistan." Achakzai accepted that he was the brain behind the demonstration against the visiting American professor at the Department.

"It was a day-dream that such a philosophy could bring an end to the class system in Pakistan," the lawyer said.

Nasrullah said that he was not sure if Aimal was influenced by their ideas, but that he repeatedly stressed that he was not a "political activist." He expressed his doubts that Aimal could have sprayed bullets at the CIA headquarters. "It is like giving a rat the credit of an act of a lion," he said.

Mystery shrouds the events after Aimal's exit from the University. It is now known that Aimal visited Germany in late 1990, only a few months before his departure for the US, and not "sometime in 1987" as was reported in the press.

"All of a sudden in late 1990, he told us that he was going to Germany and needed Rs. [rupees] 30,000 to deposit as guarantee money with the German consulate at Karachi for visa purposes," said a family member.

"I tried to convince him that winter was not the ideal time to visit Germany, but he insisted on going immediately," he said.

Aimal's family members say that before leaving for Germany Aimal didn't have cash in his account and they were not sure who paid for his three-week tour of Germany. Not one of his three brothers, nor any of his friends are aware of the details of his visit to Germany.

"I pressed him, but he always avoided any discussion on his German tour," a close family friend disclosed.

Aimal's family members acknowledged that soon after his return from Germany, he announced that he was to move to the United States and asked for his share from his father's fortune. After the settlement of money, family sources revealed, he applied for a visa at the US Consulate in Karachi.

"I am sure that he did not know anybody at the consulate as he spent a lot of time in updating his property and tax papers," said a family member who helped him prepare his visa application.

"I am positive that he left for the USA on a valid visa," he remarked.

Investigations by this correspondent have confirmed that Aimal left for the USA from Karachi on passport number: D-399099 on March 2, 1991. One week after his arrival in New York City, Aimal reported his passport lost and the Pakistan embassy in Washington D.C. took just a few days in issuing him a fresh Passport Number: G-284309 on March 18, 1991.

During the next 11 months, he is believed to have contacted many attorneys in his bid to seek a permanent legal status in the USA. A Washington D.C. attorney is believed to have helped Aimal in filing an asylum request on February 3, 1992. As per routine, pending his asylum request, Aimal was issued a one-year work permit on February 12, 1992. He fired at the CIA officials only a week before expiry of his work permit.

After the shooting at the CIA headquarters on January 25, he left for Karachi from Washington National Airport on January 26. The same night he took a bus for Quetta.

"We were having breakfast when Aimal walked in with a bag. He said he had to leave the US because it was a requirement before the authorities issued him the green card," said his brother Mir Waiz describing his sudden arrival on the morning of January 28.

"We knew there was something wrong as he arrived just with two trousers and as many shirts."

His family members have told authorities that he made no phone call nor did he return any calls during his nine-day stay at home. He left unnoticed on the morning of February 7. Aimal's family members are now speculating that he was probably tipped off that investigators in Washington had discovered his involvement in the CIA shooting.

A senior Kanshi family member in Quetta felt that Aimal had lost all his money in the USA and he probably had no money in his bank accounts back in Virginia. This family member had a feeling that Aimal was probably duped by someone impersonating as a CIA official in Washington and Aimal reacted by firing indiscriminately at the CIA headquarters.

Notwithstanding wild speculation in the press about the case, the Kanshi family members in Quetta feel that Aimal must not be excused for bringing such disrepute to the family. "He is responsible for bringing utter disgrace and shame to the family," said senior member of the Kanshi family.

In their meeting with the Home Secretary, Balochistan, in Quetta on Saturday, the elders of the Kanshi family voluntarily assured that they would be the first to inform the authorities about Aimal's whereabouts. "We just cannot conceive of giving him shelter or protections. He doesn't deserve any mercy," said one family member, who felt outraged that some people were trying to project Aimal as a hero.

Meanwhile no breakthrough has so far been made in the official probe launched last week. While all investigating agencies have been ordered to locate Aimal, it seems that no particular agency is ready to take full responsibility for an in-depth probe and officials were in no mood to fix the responsibility on one agency as the crime was not registered in Pakistan.

Senior security officials in Islamabad and Quetta are complaining that they did not get the required information

from Washington. These officials were wondering on what grounds Aimal's asylum request was kept pending and what motivated him to open fire at the headquarters of the CIA. "My impression is that neither the US government nor Pakistan were interested in getting into this case," said a senior security official, who thought that both governments were waiting for people to forget this sensational case.

Reportage on Visit of Turkish State Minister

Ministerial Meeting Begins

BK1302144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] The ninth session of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Ministerial Commission began in Islamabad today. In his opening remarks, the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, underlined the need for promoting trade, economic and technical cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan. He said Pakistan and Turkey have over the years established very close relation. The cordiality and friendship among our people is reflective of the closeness of the two countries. He said the establishment of the joint ministerial commission is a landmark in the existing proximity between the two countries. The joint ministerial commission, he said, has provided us with an institutionalized forum for in-depth review of bilateral relations for identifying new avenues of cooperation.

The Turkish minister of state for economy, Mr. Omer Barutcu, said the effective and efficient measures taken for structural changes toward a free market economy will contribute to the economic and social development of Pakistan. He said the latest changes in our economies will encourage and promote business in both Turkey and Pakistan, either in bilateral trade or in reciprocal investments.

The Turkish minister of state, Mr. Omer Barutcu, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president house] today. Ways and means to promote economic collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey came up for discussion during the meeting. They also discussed Pakistan-Turkey cooperation, particularly in the context of the Economic Cooperation Organization. The president reiterated Pakistan's full commitment to further strengthening the organization and realizing its objectives by enhancing cooperation between members states. Views were also exchanged on the memorandum of understanding signed during the Turkish prime minister's last visit to Pakistan. A shared desire was expressed for its effective and early implementation. The president thanked the Turkish Government for removal of duty on Pakistani yarn. It was a long-standing issue and the president had discussed it with President Turgut Ozal during his visit to Turkey in September last.

Defense Industry Agreement Signed

BK1402100593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey have signed an agreement on cooperation in defense industry. The agreement has been concluded on the basis of the jurisdiction of a military consultative group and exchange of information on defense industry. This was stated in a joint press release issued simultaneously from Rawalpindi and Ankara at the end of the six-day visit of Turkish Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz to Pakistan. The Turkish minister paid the visit at the invitation of Federal Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah.

The two sides took serious note of the human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed that Kashmir dispute should be resolved peacefully through negotiations in accordance with UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement. The two sides reviewed cooperation and collaboration in the defense sector and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far. Views were mainly exchanged at the talks on military training and cooperation in the defense production. Both sides also agreed that there should be an end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for lifting arms embargo on it and granting self-determination rights to Muslims and providing guarantee for the supply of aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The joint press release expressed satisfaction over the talks between the two defense ministers held in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and brotherliness between Pakistan and Turkey. The Turkish defense minister during his visit had meetings with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Defense Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani and exchanged views with them on the possibilities of furthering cooperation in the defense industry. Nevzat Ayaz also visited some defense industries of Pakistan, including Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Pakistan Ordnance Factories and Taxila Heavy Industry.

Trade Volume To Double

BK1502152493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Turkey and Pakistan have decided to increase their volume of trade from \$100 million to \$200 million. This

was stated by the Turkish minister of economy, Omer Barutcu, at a press conference in Islamabad today. Under a protocol signed after three days' deliberations between two sides, a target of \$200 million has been fixed for two-way imports and exports in the current year. The Turkish minister said that his government has decided to repeal the antidumping duty imposed on Pakistan's cotton yarn in September last year. He said great potential existed to further expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

Turkey has agreed to participate and extend cooperation in the construction of various projects in Pakistan. This was stated at a high-level meeting in Islamabad today. The minister of state for communications, Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, and the Turkish minister for economy, Mr. Omer Barutcu, led their respective delegations at the talks. The meeting decided to constitute a joint committee of technical experts to chalk out a comprehensive plan for the development of communication projects in Pakistan. The proposals of the committee would be implemented at the earliest. A Turkish company, (Iztafa), has been awarded a contract to construct a section of the Indus Highway project.

Joint Commission Meeting Ends

BK1502163893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey have decided to double their bilateral trade from the current year raising its value to \$200 million from \$100 million. This was announced in Islamabad this afternoon at the end of the ninth session of the Pak-Turkey Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation. Two countries also signed a protocol identifying a number of areas for increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The areas include trade and commerce, science and technology, agriculture, oil and gas, railways, and communication. Pakistan also invited a Turkish delegation to sign the fourth executive protocol for cooperation in science and technology.

Later, addressing a joint news conference, the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and the Turkish minister of economy, Mr. Omer Barutcu, who led their delegations at the commission's meeting expressed their full satisfaction over the results of the meeting.